

A FESTIVAL OF *Nine Lessons & Carols*



QUID NOVI

DECEMBER 3, 2018
VOL. 21 NO. 16
MAJORIS

Join us for Lessons & Carols,
7 pm, Thursday, December 13,
2018.

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

'TIS THE SEASON FOR DRAMA AND MUSIC

by John Heaton, Headmaster

New Covenant students are some of the busiest I know. In the three weeks remaining before Christmas break we'll host a performance of *Sense and Sensibility*, put on by the drama class in the School of Rhetoric. That means long hours this week for students in technical rehearsals every night. If you would like tickets, the performances are on Friday and Saturday night at 7 p.m. This is a great play suitable for all audiences.

One of our youngest students, **Carter Roe** (4th) has the lead role in the Liberty School of Music production, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Amahl is a crippled boy with a big, wild imagination and he is the son of a very poor widow. They are visited in the middle of the night by three wise men, who are following a star, and need a place to rest for a few hours. Mind you, Amahl and his mother have nothing,

and so this visit is a big deal. While everyone is asleep, the mother attempts to steal their gold, which awakens the Page, and then the rest of the cast. What follows is a story of grace, redemption, and healing as the mother and Wise Men seek to reconcile this situation.

Amahl & The Night Visitors is an opera, so the entire story is told through song. However, don't let that deter you - it's in English, and it's very comedic! The show is **Thursday, December 6, at 7:30 pm** at the LU Performing Arts Center and is about 45 minutes long.

Finally, all of our students in grades 5-12 who participate in choir, orchestra or band will be joining together to lead our school community in Lessons & Carols at Heritage Baptist Church at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, December 13**. This service of worship is for our entire community. You'll be blessed by including this in your holiday plans.

What's New?

When it comes to re-enrollment, New Covenant is trying to work smarter to make things easy for you and for our staff. It's already time to think about next year, but with continuous enrollment, you'll have to think less about it. On January 11, 2019 Linda Hackenbracht will send you an enrollment contract electronically, and your electronic signature is all that is needed. This contract is different, however; once you sign it, New Covenant will automatically re-enroll your child each year going forward, unless you tell us otherwise. And remember, if you're applying for TAP, the application opened on November 15. Go ahead and apply now using your tax return from 2017. We'll respond quickly.

WHAT IS CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT?

Think.

Learn.

Love.

Live.

H O N O R A R I A

TRAINING ON THE MOUNTAIN

by Stacey Hester

Throughout her School of Rhetoric career, Emma Zealand has conscientiously pursued her studies, sometimes into the wee hours of early morning. Her dogged efforts, though, have often left her tired and discouraged. She remembers asking, “Why, God, are you making me struggle so hard?” Her sweet smile and peppy step might convince you that the struggle has not existed. But this very real mountain has been her training ground.

For good reason, Emma received the 2016 Workhorse Soccer Award and the 2018 Cross Country MVP Award. Just two weeks ago, Emma met with Liberty University’s cross-country coach to discuss her athletic prospects. She left the meeting with an invitation to run both cross country and track and field for the Flames. After hearing Emma share her personal record, Coach Rebekah Ricksecker affirmed Emma’s talent and assured her that her well-rounded career in high school sports has worked to her advantage for collegiate-level competition.

With 25 plus miles to run each week, Emma and her dad will hit the road, chipping away at increasing her long-distance endurance. Emma will officially begin practicing with her Liberty Flame teammates after graduation in May.

Oh, and about those struggles? Emma reflects that, “Something in my junior year clicked. I realized I didn’t have to come home stressed each night...the struggle helped me trust God.” As for her success, she acknowledges that, “...my success is because of my dad’s encouragement. He’s helped a lot, but really all of my gifts are from God.”

And with that truth, Emma, we wish you Godspeed as you train on the mountain.



NEW COVENANT ALUM HONORS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT VMI



Will Reeves (class of 2015) is a first year student at Virginia Military Institute (in our terminology that means he is a senior cadet).

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis addressed the cadets in September of this year, the third Secretary of Defense to do so in the last century. On behalf of the cadets, Will was honored to present Mr. Mattis with a token of appreciation from the school. Jim Mattis enlisted in the Marine Corp in 1969 and has been in leadership in multiple wars. Will, who graduated in 2015 from New Covenant, is a stand-out at VMI. He is studying Arabic with a minor in National Security to prepare for a career in intelligence. His goal is to work for the CIA or other agencies.



NEW COVENANT STUDENTS DEBUT IN RE-OPENING OF THE ACADEMY THEATER

New Covenant students **Konnor Johnson** (10), **Anna Burton** (9), and **Delia Loy** (7) were part of the cast that saw the long-awaited re-opening of Lynchburg’s Academy Theater for the arts. The production of the musical, *Elf, Jr.*, opened on Thursday, November 29, and ran for two nights. Konnor was cast in the lead role as Buddy the Elf, while Anna and Delia both had supporting roles as Emily Hobbs and Flyer Gal/Camera Gal.

There were over 400 at the opening performance, and more than 100 of those patrons were from the New Covenant community. **Kelli Johnson**, who is an assistant in drama at New Covenant, was the stage manager for *Elf*, and helped pull off a truly engaging and funny holiday performance.

C O M M U N I T A S

COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES TO FEATURE DR. DAN WILLINGHAM

The following is an excerpt from Dr. Willingham's book, *"Why Don't Students like School? He will spend a day with our faculty in professional development and will address the parent community on the evening of January 21, 2019 in our Community Lecture Series."*



Question: Why is it difficult to make school enjoyable for students? Put another way, why do children hate school?

This and similar questions have been the focus of Dan Willingham's research on the brain at the University of Virginia.

Answer: Contrary to popular belief, the brain is not designed for thinking. It's designed to save you from having to think, because the brain is actually not very good at thinking. Thinking is slow and unreliable. Nevertheless, people enjoy mental work if it is successful. People like to solve problems, but not to work on unsolvable problems. If schoolwork is always just a bit too difficult for a student, it should be no surprise that he doesn't like school much. The cognitive principle is: People are naturally curious, but they are not thinkers; unless the cognitive conditions are right, we will avoid thinking. The implication of this principle is that teachers should reconsider how they encourage their students to think, in order to maximize the likelihood that students will get the pleasurable rush that comes from successful thought.

Your brain serves many purposes, and thinking is not the one it serves best. Your brain also supports the ability to see and to move, for example, and these functions operate much more efficiently and reliably than your ability to think. It's no accident that most of your brain's real estate is devoted to these activities. The extra brain power is needed because seeing is actually more difficult than playing chess or solving calculus problems.

Compared to your ability to see and move, thinking is slow, effortful, and uncertain. To get a feel for why I say this, try solving this problem: In an empty room are a candle, some matches, and a box of tacks. The goal is to have the lit candle about five feet off the ground. You've tried melting some of the wax on the bottom of the candle and sticking it to the wall, but that wasn't effective. How can you get the lit candle five feet off the ground without having to hold it there? Twenty minutes is the usual maximum time allowed, and few people are able to solve it by then, although once you hear the answer you will realize it's not especially tricky. You dump the tacks out of the box, tack the box to the wall, and use it as a platform for the candle. This problem illustrates three properties of thinking.

First, thinking is slow. Your visual system instantly takes in a complex scene. When you enter a friend's backyard you don't think to yourself, "Hmmm, there's some green stuff.

Probably grass, but it could be some other ground cover-and what's that rough brown object sticking up there? A fence, perhaps?" You take in the whole scene-lawn, fence, flowerbeds, gazebo-at a glance. Your thinking system does not instantly calculate the answer to a problem the way your visual system immediately takes in a visual scene.

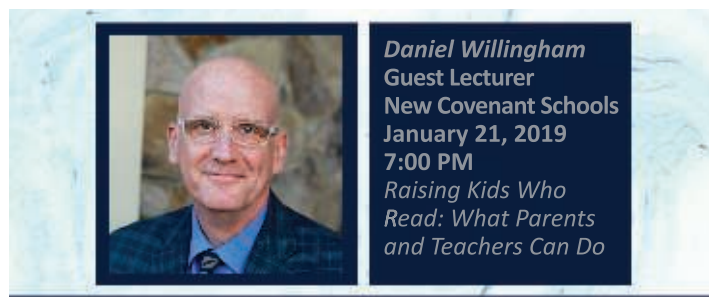
Second, thinking is effortful; you don't have to try to see, but thinking takes concentration. You can perform other tasks while you are seeing, but you can't think about something else while you are working on a problem.

Finally, thinking is uncertain. Your visual system seldom makes mistakes, and when it does you usually think you see something similar to what is actually out there-you're close, if not exactly right. Your thinking system might not even get you close; your solution to a problem may be far from correct. In fact, your thinking system may not produce an answer at all, which is what happens to most people when they try to solve the candle problem.

If we're all so bad at thinking, how does anyone get through the day? How do we find our way to work or spot a bargain at the grocery store? How does a teacher make the hundreds of decisions necessary to get through her day? The answer is that when we can get away with it, we don't think. Instead we rely on memory. Most of the problems we face are ones we've solved before, so we just do what we've done in the past.

If people are bad at thinking and try to avoid it, what does that say about students' attitudes toward school? Fortunately, the story doesn't end with people stubbornly refusing to think. Despite the fact that we're not that good at it, we actually like to think. We are naturally curious, and we look for opportunities to engage in certain types of thought. But because thinking is so hard, the conditions have to be right for this curiosity to thrive, or we quit thinking.

Join us as we host Dr. Willingham for our Community Lecture Series in January.



TAX CREDITS OFFERED!

Nearly everyone can redirect tax money toward student scholarships and receive huge tax benefits. If you would like to know how this is accomplished, contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office at drenalds@newcovenantschools.org.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS scholarship foundation

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

YEARBOOK ADS Do you own or manage a local business? Please consider placing a business ad in the New Covenant Schools yearbook to support our graphic design class and receive non-stop advertising for years to come. Ads are available in full, half and quarter page slots. Contact **Andrea Loy** - aloy@newcovenantschools.org for more information. Design services are complimentary.

THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be held on Thursday, **December 13 at 7:00 pm** at **Heritage Baptist Church** featuring students in grades 5-12. All are welcome! **Students should arrive to the church at 5:45 pm. Dress guidelines - Grades 5-8 – Dress uniform for boys and girls.**

Boys must wear long Flynn & O'Hara pants (NO shorts).
Girls-In addition to the dress uniform girls are required to wear black tights and black Mary Jane shoe or black ballet flats.

Grades 9-12:

SOR Gentlemen-Black pants, long sleeved black shirt, black belt, black shoes and black socks.

SOR Ladies-Black dress (that comes to the knee or below when seated). Or black pants or long to the ankle black skirt, black shirt, black shoes. (If wearing black dress or long skirt dark tights are required).

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT This year the 8th grade will host a special event on **Saturday, December 15, from 4:00-7:00 pm** in the Moomaw Gym at New Covenant Schools. Parents' Night Out is for all New Covenant students from grades K - 4 and is a time for parents to go Christmas shopping or on a date while their kids play fun games, do crafts, and have a snack at school with the 8th graders. The cost is \$5 per child and space is limited to 75 students. Please see the flier sent home today in your child's Monday folder with details and check your e-mail for the Sign-up Genius link for the event.

THE ANNUAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (grades K-4) will be held Thursday, **December 20, 8:15 am** in the Moomaw Gymnasium.

SCHOOL DISMISSED EARLY for **Christmas Break Thursday, December 20 at 11:00 am**. This also ends the 2nd Quarter. Students return on Monday, January 7.

LUNCH ORDERING – Lunch ordering for January is now open. Remember to order before Christmas Break. **The deadline to order is Friday, December 14.**

SOR

SOR EXAMS Students in grades 9-12 will take exams on **Tuesday & Wednesday, December 18 and 19**. They will dismiss **both days at 12:15 pm**. We

will have supervised study halls for SoR students until 3:00 pm on Tuesday, if needed. Students should plan a way home at 12:15 on the 19th.

Support New Covenant	Goal	YTD
Annual Fund	\$200,000	\$20,505
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$3,536
New Cov Foundation	\$100,000	\$67,692
Restricted Gifts	\$10,000	\$38,241

Please consider New Covenant Schools in your end-of-year giving. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact Dayna Renalds in the Development Office for more information. Don't delay, all gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2018.

QUID NOVI

is mailed free of charge seven times annually to all who wish to receive it. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please call (434) 847-8313, or send an email to development@newcovenantschools.org with your name, current mailing address, and the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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EX OFFICIO

Rev'd John Heaton
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MISSION STATEMENT

New Covenant Schools is an educational community serving families of Central Virginia,
providing an exceptional education in a classical curriculum within the framework of historic Christianity, furnishing the student with the tools of education and the inspiration to be a life-long learner.



A FESTIVAL OF *Nine Lessons & Carols*

Featuring New Covenant's combined orchestra, band and choirs in grades 5-12
under the direction of

Mr. Joseph Nigro, Dr. Monty Musgrave, Mr. Walker Pennock, & Mrs. Wendy Ames

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 7:00 PM

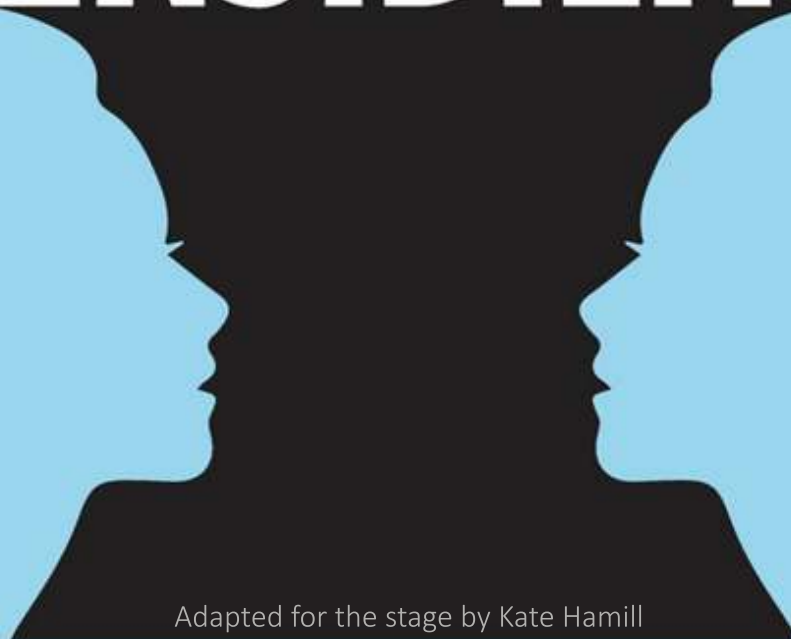
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH, LYNCHBURG, VA

new covenant schools

PANACHE PRESENTS:

JANE AUSTEN

SENSE & SENSIBILITY



Adapted for the stage by Kate Hamill

Friday, December 7 & Saturday, December 8

- at 7:00 PM -

General Admission \$5.00

Contact 434-847-8313

for information.

new covenant schools

GYMNASIUM



VARSITY WOMENS BASKETBALL

NCS	44	TCS	19
NCS	32	RC	31

JV WOMENS BASKETBALL

NCS	37	Lynchburg	39
		Homeschool	

MS GIRLS BASKETBALL

NCS	22	TCS	16
NCS	18	Lynchburg	12
		Homeschool	

VARSITY MENS BASKETBALL

NCS	67	TCS	58
NCS	39	RC	83

JV MENS BASKETBALL

NCS	41	TCS	17
NCS	31	Lynchburg	41
		Homeschool	

MS BOYS BASKETBALL

NCS	48	TCS	21
NCS	15	Lynchburg	40
		Homeschool	