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MAJORIS

# QUID NOVI

Thaddaeus Heaton sprints in the men's 4x100 meter relay in the VISAA state tournament.

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

## I AM A SCIENCE NERD, AND SO ARE MY STUDENTS

*by Jimmy Kirshberger*

The universe is whispering to us, not in an audible voice, of course, but in very low energy radio waves. These waves, undetectable without special telescopes, are emitted by hydrogen gas deep in space, and from them scientists have learned more about star formation, the surface of Venus, and the supermassive black hole at the center of our galaxy.

This spring, New Covenant students in eighth grade had the opportunity to travel to Green Bank, West Virginia to learn more about the cutting-edge science of radio astronomy. Green Bank is home to the largest fully steerable telescope in the world, a 485-foot tall "satellite dish" with a diameter over 100 meters. Our students made the trip into the National Radio

Quiet Zone, where radio transmissions are heavily restricted. They are so restricted that residents nearby live without cell phone service, broadcast television, microwaves, and Wi-Fi, so as to avoid interference with the astronomical observations that take place there.

Our students received quick in-service on a smaller telescope - it was only 40 feet! - then spent several hours operating the telescope independently and collecting radio signals from the night sky. Much of the data they assembled appeared to be nothing more than squiggly lines on a piece of paper, but upon further examination, they had obtained enough information in one night of observation to get an understanding that we live in a disc-shaped

## What's New?

This spring the Gryphon Garden was ready for its first harvest. Students across the grades started seedlings in their classrooms under the watchful eye of Heidi Heaton and moved them to the box beds as the weather warmed. As students finish the final week of school their vegetables are ready for harvest. Mason Bryars (right) gets busy picking snap peas.

## First Harvest in the Gryphon Garden



Think.

Learn.

Love.

Live.

# HONORARIA



**SCOTT BORAH** Armed with a willingness to work, singleness of mind, and hopeful outlook, senior Scott Borah engaged in his post-graduation admissions process early in his junior year. His mission: to gain placement at the Apprentice School at the world-renowned Newport News Shipyard, the heavy-hitter of United States marine vessel design and construction. Admission to this position entails a series of gateway examinations, including academic expertise (especially math), fitness tests, interviews, and security clearance to name a few. We are pleased to announce that Scott has won admission to a class of less than 200 selected from more than 3,000 applicants to the program. He will begin his studies in September.

**MICHAEL MINNICK** The William and Mary Leadership Award is presented to the one student who best exemplifies the spirit of New Covenant Schools. Award recipients are selected because of their demonstration of the following: inspirational leadership, outstanding scholarship, and unwavering loyalty to the high school and community. The 2019 recipient of this award is junior **Michael Minnick**.



**ANDREW DENEEN** Each year the Optimist Club of Lynchburg presents a drama award to one high school student from each school in the city. This year New Covenant's drama award recipient is senior **Andrew Deneen**. Year after year, he has been a faithful member of *Panache*, usually helping to paint the sets as well as act, and always willing and ready to accept any role given him to make each play a success. Andrew is a great character actor and has poured his own personality into each role he has played. Notable roles were Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Alf the sailor in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. He also has a great stage voice, one that enunciates very clearly and never needs a microphone! His dedication to our program is unmatched by any other student; he has performed in at least one show each year since 6th grade! He received his award at a special luncheon on May 16.

**NICK TOONE** The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution annually invites seniors to participate in their local chapter scholarship competition. The process begins with a faculty nomination of a senior who exhibits dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Senior **Nick Toone** secured the vote and proceeded through the three-stage competition in which he created a resume, secured faculty recommendations, and answered a timed essay prompt. Within a two-hour timeframe, Nick aptly and winsomely answered the loaded question: "What new challenges will America face as we move forward into the future?" We are pleased to announce that Nick is the 2019 DAR James River Chapter scholarship winner.



Congratulations to **Tessa Hackenbracht** for achieving Distinguished Scholar Recognition on the Classic Learning Test (CLT10).  
Congratulations to **Phoebe Prillaman** for achieving Regional Scholar Recognition on the Classic Learning Test (CLT10).

## NEW COVENANT STUDENTS COMPETE IN STATE TOURNAMENT FOR TRACK AND FIELD

Seventeen athletes from the School of Rhetoric competed in the VISAA State Tournament for track and field in Richmond, VA on Saturday, May 18. More than fifty schools were entered in the all-day event which took place under cloudless skies and temperatures in the low 90's.

New Covenant's track and field team is only in its third season under the leadership of **Carl Stamey** and **Chris Deneen**. In order to compete at the state level athletes must qualify in regular seasonal meets with minimum times, while relay teams are automatically entered. The team was not large enough to compete in all events, so the goal was improve times and "PR's" (personal records).



Several students did just that. The women's 400 meter relay team bested its time by 10 seconds, while **Emilee Newsome** improved her discus throw by over 13 feet. **Thaddaeus Heaton**, who set the New Covenant school record for the 400 meter dash shaved more than a second off his time. The men's 4x100 meter relay team improved its time by over 4 seconds with the smoothest baton hand-off's of the year finishing 7th overall. **Brie Olson** placed sixth overall in the women's 100 meter dash, an impressive finish for a freshman competing in her first state meet (she's fast!).  
See back page for official posted times.

# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

**LOST & FOUND** will be purged at the end of the school year. All unclaimed items will be donated.

**USED UNIFORM SALE** On **Thursday, June 13**, from **4:00 - 6:00 pm** the school store will be holding a used uniform sale in the School of Rhetoric wing. The store sells used items for only \$1.00. Parents who wish to sell their student's used uniforms may also do so at this time. Tables will be set up for your use in the Moomaw Gym. Parents may offer gently used Flynn & O'Hara items only. Suggested pricing is no more than 50% of original cost. Simply bring your items and claim a spot. This sale will return on **Thursday, July 11, 9:00 - 11:30 am**.

**NW FAMILIES IF YOU ARE JOINING** the school this fall, we offer a personalized fitting with Flynn and O'Hara representatives on **Thursday, June 13, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm**. Be watching your email for a sign-up genius to schedule your time.

**END OF YEAR** Now is the time to make sure all your student accounts are paid in full with the school financial office. This includes charges for lunch, Gryphons Outfitters, tuition, aftercare, and library fees.

### NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS WANTS TO HELP YOU SAVE MONEY

We understand that good financial stewardship is important to you and your family and have responded by offering several ways to afford New Covenant. We'd like to help you further. Join us for breakfast on **May 22 at 7:30 am** to hear from Headmaster Heaton and Director of Finance Linda Hackenbracht on how to save money by routing it through the Virginia 529 Savings Plan or gifting to the Scholarship Tax Credit Improvement Program. This information will help your bottom line and your future. Check your e-mail for a sign-up genius notification where you may see further information and RSVP. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**PANACHE DVDS AVAILABLE** Video copies of this season's Panache productions, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*, are now available for \$10 in the office. You may place your order by emailing Robin Layne at [rlayne@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:rlayne@newcovenantschools.org). She will bill your FACTS account for the purchase. If you prefer to pay with cash or check, please stop by the lobby desk for assistance.

**2019-20 MASTER CALENDAR** can be viewed or downloaded from our NCS website under MY NCS. <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-Master-Calendar-web.pdf>

## GRAMMAR

**THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL** Concert will be held on **Friday, May 24, at 8:15 - 9:00 am** in the Moomaw Gym.

**YEARBOOKS ARE HERE!** Grammar school students who purchased a yearbook will receive them today, **Monday May 20**.

**KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION** will be held **Thursday** morning, **May 23 at 10:00 am** in the Moomaw Gymnasium.

**THE LAST DAY** of school for students in **Pre-K and students in 1st-8th grades is Friday, May 24**. Grades 1-4 will perform a concert at **8:15 am** in the Moomaw Gym. These students will participate in field day after the concert. School will be dismissed for all students at **12:00 pm**.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL** spring concert will be held this evening, **May 20 at 7:00 pm** in the Moomaw Gymnasium.

**END OF THE YEAR AWARDS** ceremony for students in grades 7 and 8 will be held at **9:00 - 9:45 am** in the Moomaw Gym on the last day of school, with special recognitions for 8th graders as they move to the next level.

**EXAMS FOR STUDENTS** in grade 8 will be administered **Wednesday, May 22** and **Thursday, May 23** with a regular **3:00 pm dismissal**.

## SoR

**SOR EXAMS** will be administered **Wednesday, May 22** with a 12:15 dismissal and **Thursday, May 23**.

**THE LAST DAY** of school for students in the SoR is **Thursday, May 23**.  
**12:20pm** – Lunch provided for all SoR students at Pat's Pavilion  
**1:00pm** – Final locker clean-out; lock and book return  
**2:00pm** – Year-end award ceremony in the Moomaw (parents are welcome!)  
**7:00-10:00pm** – SoR Spring Dance at NCS

**THE SOR SPRING DANCE** will be held **Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 pm**. Students who are currently in 8th grade are the special guests of the high school students and are encouraged to attend.

**GRADUATION** is **Saturday May 25th at 2:00 pm** at Rivermont EPC. Seniors need to be at the church at **1:30 pm**, Junior ushers need to be at the church at **1:30 pm**. Seating is first come, first served.

## SUMMER

**SUMMER CAMP & STAY FIT! STRENGTH TRAINING REGISTRATION**  
New Covenant offers a selection of camps and programs this summer. To register, go to our school's website by Friday, May 24 under MY NCS. Registrations made after this deadline will increase in price. Note: Grade levels refer to the grade to which the student is rising.

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS** Beginning Monday, June 3 our summer office hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday 8am-4pm and Thursday 8am-12pm.

**SUPPLY LISTS, READING LISTS, UNIFORM GUIDES** will be published on our website under My NCS – My Resources by June 1.

## VISAA STATE TRACK MEET SCORES

### WOMEN

#### 100 Meter Dash

13.29 SB Gabrielle Olson 6th Prelims H1 13.48

Gabrielle Olson 6th Finals H1

14.22 Eva Sayles 18th Prelims H1

#### 200 Meter Dash

28.26 Gabrielle Olson 10th Finals H3

#### 400 Meter Dash

1:06.52 SB Charity Simon 10th Finals H2

#### 3200 Meter Run

13:30.69 Emma Zealand 11th Finals H1

#### 4x100 Meter Relay

57.72 SB Relay Team 8th Finals H1

#### 4x400 Meter Relay

4:54.21 SB Relay Team 11th Finals H1

#### 4x800 Meter Relay

12:20.37 Relay Team 9th Finals H1

#### Discus

84-0 SB Emilee Newsome 8th Finals H1 67-5

Gabrielle Olson 14th Finals H1

61-4 Bailey Foster 17th Finals H1

### MEN

#### Shot Put

26-1.75 Emilee Newsome 10th Finals H1

#### 100 Meter Dash

12.32 Roman Seay 22nd Prelims H1

#### 200 Meter Dash

24.94 Thaddaeus Heaton 22nd Finals H2

#### 400 Meter Dash

54.28 Thaddaeus Heaton 9th Finals H2

#### 4x100 Meter Relay

47.26 SB Relay Team 7th Finals H1

#### 4x400 Meter Relay

4:02.64 SB Relay Team 10th Finals H1

#### Long Jump

17-0.5 Roman Seay 24th Finals H1

H = Heat

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spinning galaxy populated by nebulous gases and billions of stars.

**Rebekah Bryant** said the highlight for her was when “we used a radio telescope and proved that the Milky Way is a spinning disk by looking at the data we collected.” The whole experience offered our students an invaluable opportunity to

see what scientific research actually looks like. Much of the time spent by scientists collecting data is somewhat tedious and not very glamorous. Likewise, much of our students’ time in the underground bunker controlling the telescope was spent making marks on printer readouts and writing down numbers, the complete significance of which was murky to them.

It wasn’t until the next day’s data analysis project that the true significance of their findings was revealed. There were moments of excitement when students working underground were still able to identify a satellite whizzing by overhead in the dark, simply by reading the “spike” in their radio wave sheet. It was refreshing to see our students in a completely “tech-free” environment literally cheering about a blip on a data sheet because they understood what it was. Of course, their excitement was tempered slightly when we explained that the reading was more likely to be from a satellite than an alien spacecraft. But they were collecting data, drawing conclusions, and rejoicing in the discovery.

And that warmed my nerdy little heart.



## QUID NOVI

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### OUR MISSION

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.