THREE GREAT UNTRUTHS, PT. 3
by John Heaton, Headmaster

We sometimes teach our children things we don’t intend. These are “untruths” that can hamper effective parenting and classroom instruction. The first untruth is that children are fragile, and that we should control their environment to protect their feelings. The second untruth is that feelings are to be believed and trusted. We address both of these in previous editions of Quid Novi.

The third untruth is that the world is structured as “us vs. them.” This untruth relies upon an assumption that human beings are hard-wired to be tribal, with one group competing with other groups, sometimes violently. This assumption is debatable, but what is observable is that more and more children of the “iGeneration” (born from 1995-2013), are very assertive in their demands for protection against microaggressions of others. (Microaggressions are defined speech or actions I find hurtful or discomforting). In their world these are equivalent to physical threats and personal harm.

If microaggressions exist between individuals, then “us vs. them” is personal victimhood writ large, entailing grievances between whole groups or classes of people. Its current and most powerful expression is...
SOR ELECTS 2020 HOUSE HEADS

HEADS OF HOUSE: On Friday, August 30th, School of Rhetoric students gathered by Houses for the election of their leaders! Each house is led by two Heads of House who share leadership responsibilities equally. The Heads of House run house meetings, take the lead for house events, encourage house spirit, and seek to model Christ-like leadership. Four candidates ran for Head in each of the houses, making for a spirited campaign. Congratulations to the following students:

- CALVIN HURT*
- WILLIAM VANVOORHIS
- KAYLOR TURNER
- KAYLA HALEY
- CHRISTOPHER MATNEY
- MICHAEL MINNICK*
- WILLIAM VANVOORHIS
- LAUSYN MCBRIDE

*HOUSE COUNCIL OFFICERS: The eight elected Heads of House comprise the House Council, which is the student-led governing body for the School of Rhetoric. This past week the Council met to select their officers. The officers of the House Council (the President and Vice President), are not chosen by the student body directly, but are chosen by the House Council from among their own ranks to facilitate its own leadership. The difference may seem subtle, but it is significant. It is not the case that the President directs the agenda for the year and asks the Council to help him enact it. Rather, the House Council directs the agenda for the year and asks the President and Vice President to lead them in enacting it, thus bringing to the fore the servant-leadership nature of the Officers. Congratulations to Michael Minnick and Calvin Hurt who were selected as President and Vice-President, respectively.
EVERYONE

TRAIL LIFE USA MEETING Tuesday, September 10, 6:30-7:30 pm at Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. Note: the informational meeting is NOT being held at New Covenant as published in last week’s Quid Novi. Trail Life is a Christ-centered outdoor character development adventure program open to boys and young men ages 5-17. Contact Russ Matney, Troopmaster, for more information - 434-841-1741 or redd2sail@gmail.com.

PROGRESS REPORTS will be emailed on Wednesday, September 11.

SUPPER CLUBS WILL BEGIN again this fall to encourage friendships within the school community. Supper Clubs are small groups of current parents from across the school grades meeting together in someone’s home or other arranged location once a quarter for a meal. The clubs will allow for flexibility in time, menu and childcare options. If you are interested in joining a group, contact Naomi Hostetler at nhostetler@newcovenantschools.org to add your name to the list.

LUNCH ORDERING FOR October is now open on Friday, September 6, and will close on Friday, September 20. Please login to your FACTS/RenWeb account or mobile app to place your orders. Look for a confirmation email or receipt at the end of the process to confirm your orders went through. If you know of dates your child will be absent due to field trips or other activities, don’t order for those dates. However, if you have ordered and your child is absent, just contact the school before 9:00 am that day to cancel your order.

PARENT SURVEYS have been emailed as part of our accreditation self-study. We are asking our parents to participate in the survey. This will only take a few minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous and confidential.

At the end of the survey, there is an additional link to Beth Mayberry’s email that allows you to notify her that you have taken the survey, which will reward your student with a popsicle at lunch. Please complete the survey by this Wednesday for your child to receive their popsicle on Friday. Be sure to put your name and your child(ren)’s name(s) in the email so we know who to include. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZXW37RQ

GUIDANCE OFFICE NEWS The following colleges will be on campus to visit with our students. You are welcome to attend any of the following events.

Samford University Luncheon: September 10, 12:30 pm

UVA Coffeehouse: September 11, 8:00 am

JMU Coffeehouse: September 16, 10:45 am

MENS VARSITY SOCCER
NCS 0 Carlisle 0
NCS 8 Stuart Hall 0

MENS JV SOCCER
NCS 1 LHS 5

WOMENS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL
NCS 2 RCS 0
NCS 2 RCS 3

WOMENS JV VOLLEYBALL
NCS 2 RVCS 0

CROSS COUNTRY
NCS Invitational

Varsity Men
1 20:28 Caleb Eaton
2 21:45 Will VanVoorhis
3 23:29 Nathan Oppenheimer
4 23:48 Roman Seay
6 24:15 Jonathan Matney
8 26:56 Thomas Van Voorhis
9 27:17 Ethan Edwards
10 27:28 Chris Matney
14 29:07 Nate Kirshberger

Varsity Women
1 25:52 Ellen Ann Deneen
2 29:48 Madeline Duncan
6 35:56 Helene Kimlick

Middle School
2019 Lynchburg MS XC Invitational
3000 M Run
Girls Team 4th
Boys Team 4th
found in what Jonathan Rauch at the Brookings Institute named “identity politics.” He described IP as “political mobilization organized around group characteristics such as race, gender, and sexuality, as opposed to party, ideology, or pecuniary interest.” It can take several forms, but in its worst expression, whole classes of people are encouraged to focus upon their differences and to resist, if not condemn, those of other classes who are deemed threatening or oppressive. In this view life is a struggle between good people and evil people, with the imputation of guilt to whole classes of people who fit a particular profile.

This is intensified by the concept of intersectionality, an intellectual framework that seeks to identify multiple axes of privilege and oppression that intersect. Some groups are high on the privilege axis, others on the oppression axis. The chart to the right shows how far we have come in splitting ourselves into groups of the dominant and the oppressed.

It’s easy to see that this has taken hold in our neighborhoods and workplaces. People identify with a political party, for example, and tend to read news sources that confirm only what they already believe. Broadcast media, of course, spend millions of dollars attracting viewers or listeners with the goal of maintaining continuous outrage against those in the other group. Because we are emotionally invested in the welfare of our group or our point of view, we easily slip into demonizing the other.

So there we are: us vs. them. This flourishes in many, if not most, institutions of higher learning today, and it is actively cultivated in public K-12 education here and across the country. It also flourishes around many dinner tables. It’s part of the environment in which our children are being raised, and we might be unconsciously teaching them to think this way.

Let’s bring it back to students and families at New Covenant. As our children come of age, they will be confronted with this kind of thinking. It could not be further from the foundational truth of the Christian faith - to love my neighbor as myself. We do belong to a group. It is called the body of Christ, the Church, and is our fundamental identity. Our law is the law of love. In this group we are called to love and encourage good works in one another. We are called to forgive one another – not just once – but repeatedly, when injustice and hurts come our way. In this “group” we are taught from Scripture that it is the glory of a man to overlook a transgression (not to mention a microagression). In this group we are taught that people don’t break down into tribes serving their own self-interest. Rather, we are told that the community to which we belong is made up of every people, tongue, tribe and nation.

Our children readily divide themselves into groups, often with preposterous, imaginative boundary lines. (This is what makes middle school a theater to behold!) Creating groups, and admitting students “in” or putting them “out” is a game that has been going on a very long time. Our faculty members are well aware of the students’ capacity for this kind of behavior, and we actively work to teach into their increasingly fractured world.