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MAJORIS

# QUID NOVI

Third graders present their research on our annual Egypt Day with costumes.

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

## POETRY, THE ARTS, AND THE IMAGINATION

*by John Heaton, Headmaster*

Our imaginations should be nourished as an instrument by which we know reality. While C.S. Lewis espoused many thought-provoking ideas, this lesson is a difficult, perhaps impossible one for us to understand, yet it is extremely pertinent for our technological age.

It is the unchallenged assumption that true knowledge comes only from science. We are now a technological society, and as such we unconsciously embrace science not merely as a

pathway to knowledge, but as possibly the sole pathway to knowledge. We may be the first people in the history of the world to order our thinking on this assumption.

I would suggest that a classical education should challenge - not forsake - but challenge the notion that empirical knowledge votes everything else off the island. Poetry, for example, is vastly more life-giving than, for example, today's clickbait journalism. While

*Imagination, continued on p. 4*

## What's New?

### FOOD DRIVE

Let's say you are eating lunch with all your friends Friday afternoon knowing it would be your last meal until Monday. This is the tragic reality that many children in the public-school system face weekly. Eighth grader, Elizabeth Neidzialek, brought this to the attention of the Middle School Student Council last week. Working to receive her Silver Award in the Girl Scouts, Elizabeth is partnering with the Student Council and Food for Thought, an organization that helps meet the needs of the school children going hungry on the weekends.

Together, Elizabeth and the Council have come up with a snack drive to help meet this need in our community. They are holding this food drive February 2nd through February 12th. To add excitement and enthusiasm for the snack drive, they have decided on a competition between all the schools, Grammar School, Middle School, and the School of Rhetoric. The school that brings in the most items (packaged items will be counted as one item) will earn a free dress day! Please consider joining this effort by donating granola bars, single serve oatmeal, cheese or peanut butter crackers, or small jars of peanut butter and jelly. Grammar School items will be collected in the Grammar School Commons, Middle School in the Gryphons' Lair, and School of Rhetoric in their SoR lounge.

THINK.

LEARN.

LOVE.

LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A



**OLIVIA KALAFIAN** will join ten other regional finalists from area high schools this Sunday afternoon in competing for the Jefferson Scholar - an award of distinction for those exercising leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. She will be interviewed by a panel of six UVA alum – a fairly intimidating process! Let’s celebrate with her and pray that she is able to enjoy the experience without the pangs of nervousness.



**LADY GRYPHONS** formed an indoor soccer team via Lynchburg Soccer league this winter. Congratulations to the ladies on their undefeated season and on being winners of the Indoor Championship!



**VARSITY WOMENS BASKETBALL**

NCS	35	GCS	18
NCS	45	RCS	25

**VARSITY MENS BASKETBALL**

NCS	47	Fuqua	71
NCS	32	NorthCross	74
NCS	70	RCS	51

**JV GIRLS BASKETBALL**

NCS	15	NorthCross	33
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**JV MENS BASKETBALL**

NCS	45	Fuqua	40
NCS	27	LyHS	50
NCS	39	NorthCross	68
NCS	37	RCS	54

**NEWS & ADVANCE**  
Private schools’ basketball statistical leaders through Wednesday, Jan. 29 Jan 30, 2020

**SCORING**  
1. Jadon Walker  
**REBOUNDING**  
5. Jadon Walker

**SCORING**  
1. Bailey Foster  
2. Janna Renalds  
5. Brynn Katany  
**REBOUNDING**  
2. Sophia Rucker

Support New Covenant	Goal	YTD
Annual Fund	\$150,000	\$71,811
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$11,126
The New Covenant Foundation	Pledged	Rec’d
	\$231,200	\$205,743
Restricted Gifts		\$179,692

Thank you to those who have given to our school. We are grateful for your generosity. Donations continue to be received in the development office through cash, check, stock transfers, or qualified IRA distributions. Contact Dayna Renalds to make your gift. [drenalds@newcovenanschools.org](mailto:drenalds@newcovenanschools.org)

**GIVE. THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.**

PANACHE PRESENTS :

*Rogers  
& Hammerstein's*  
**The  
SOUND  
of  
MUSIC**



**\*STARRING OLIVIA KALAFIAN**

**FEBRUARY 28, 29, &  
MARCH 6, 7 AT 7:00 PM**

**ALL SEATS RESERVED  
MOOMAW GYMNASIUM  
Adults \$13 | Students \$9**

Tickets can be purchased through the school office by phone or email:  
434-847-8313 | [ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org)

**new covenant schools** THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

## *Imagination, continued from p. 1*

the 24/7 newsfeeds keep us abreast of “facts,” all of us perceive that such deliberate communication is designed to manipulate us. “Live” coverage on FOXNews or CNN is news that is urgently needed, and thus, leads to the illusion that it matters more. Poetry doesn’t even make the reviews any more in leading cultural magazines such as the *New Yorker* or the *Atlantic Monthly*, and has virtually disappeared as we have moved into a culture of the individual.

Poetry is the art of using words charged with their utmost meaning; it is not reductionistic. Great literature uses language pregnant with meaning and layered with texture to fuel our imaginations. As science rules supreme, audiences for all of the arts are shrinking; those that require attentiveness, like poetry, have a lesser share. Moreover, people who speak in public, such as journalists, politicians, and preachers, do not read poetry because the soundbite is more important than nuanced understanding.

All of this contributes to a diminishment of our humanity, and most of us are completely unaware of it. Art is a way of knowing the world and

God because it avoids the reductionism of the scientific method. Although useful for the technological advances we all enjoy, this kind of reductionism is not an accurate measuring stick for the human condition. Poetry synthesizes rather than analyzes. Its claim is that knowing reality is not the sole purview of science. The arts are not merely the *subjective* claims of individual preferences, but the arts are an *objective* use of the imagination. It achieves knowledge not from a detached investigative standpoint, because no one is detached. We all *know* from somewhere; there is no intellectual “Switzerland.”

Poetic knowledge therefore requires that we become committed subjects, not objective observers. We allow our imaginations to sympathize with knowledge we know to be real. As teachers in the classical tradition, we demand that our students surrender themselves to great stories and good poetry.

On average, our children should be more at home with music, poetry and literature than the culture at large. Pop culture, another cultural

competitor, should not be the defining motif in church or in school, and should be indulged on one’s own time. For our part, you should expect that New Covenant will do its best to nourish the arts in the experience of every student.

## 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.