



MARCH 9, 2020  
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MAJORIS

# QUID NOVI

Ruby Helm prepares seeds to germinate for the Gryphon Garden during science class.

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

## SHE'S DONE IT...AGAIN!

by John Heaton, Headmaster

New Covenant seventh grader, **Jenna Ng**, won The News & Advance's Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday — for the third year in a row. Jenna was declared the winner after just 11 rounds of competition when she correctly spelled “contradictory,” and qualified to compete in the ninety-third Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. May 24-29.

In addition to an all expenses paid, six-night, seven-day trip to D.C. for the competition, which *The News & Advance* has done for more than thirty years, Jenna received a one-year

subscription to the online Merriam-Webster dictionary and a one-year membership to the online Encyclopedia Britannica. “We are proud to support and sponsor you as you advance to the D.C. area to participate in the national spelling bee,” Carolyn Keeling, events coordinator for *The News & Advance*, told Jenna.

Fifteen students from as many different elementary and middle schools across Lynchburg and Amherst, Appomattox and Campbell counties competed Saturday at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation in the 2020

*see Spelling Bee, continued on p. 4*

## WHAT'S NEW?

### COV-ID 19

You may be interested in the school's response plan to the possible spread of the the COV-ID 19 virus in the Commonwealth of VA. The virus is a real threat in areas where it has spread, affecting mostly older persons who have underlying conditions. There are two reported cases in Virginia at press time today, but we are monitoring the CDC website for indications of the virus in Central Virginia. In addition senior staff will be participating in a webinar this week with Virginia Department of Health to get the latest protocol options in the event of an outbreak. Meanwhile, we continue to reinforce good habits of handwashing and cleanliness. We are at greater risk for flu and other sicknesses, so we continue to ask parents to keep sick children home. No child should attend school unless fever-free for twenty four hours.

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LOVE.

LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A

## NEW COVENANT'S TESSA HACKENBRACHT NAMED A TOP 3 SCORER IN THE AMC

On February 5, fourteen School of Rhetoric students traveled to Liberty University to compete with area schools in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). The AMC 10 and AMC 12 tests, proctored nationwide, are the first in a series of competitions by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) which form the U.S. Math Olympiad team. According to the MAA, "The AMC 10 and AMC 12 are the nation's leading mathematics competition for high schoolers and are designed to cultivate the mathematical capabilities of the next generation of problem solvers."

Sophomores **Dalton Foster, Michael Marotta**, and **Ellie Walker** completed the AMC 10 test while the following Juniors and Seniors took the AMC 12 test: **Emily Brophy, Olivia Kalafian, Michael Minnick, Thomas Van Voorhis, Will Van Voorhis, Titus Brenning, Hannah Craven, Tessa Hackenbracht, Brandon Hostetler, Konner Johnson, and Phoebe Prillaman**.

All of our students deserve to be commended for their great results. A special congratulations to Michael Marotta



and Phoebe Prillaman who scored in the top 25% and Tessa Hackenbracht who scored in the top 5% of students in the greater Lynchburg area. Tessa was one of the top 3 scores on the AMC 12 test for the greater Lynchburg area.

## PANACHE ROCKS THE HOUSE

New Covenant's drama troupe, *Panache*, turned in five packed performances of *The Sound of Music*, closing on Saturday night to cheers and tears of students, parents, friends, and alumni. Before the final show, nine seniors were recognized as they performed their last *Panache* production: **Calvin Hurt, Olivia Kalafian, Sarah Hankins, Charlie Nelson, Lausyn McBride, Emily Brophy, Sofi Forshey, Claire Harris, and Eva Sayles**.

The stunning success of the show is due, in part, to the enduring popularity of the story and the music we all experienced as children. The real secret to our success, however, was the amazing talent that was perfectly cast in every role. Simply put, this group of students can just plain sing. The leading and supporting roles played by **Calvin Hurt, Olivia Kalafian, Lausyn McBride, and Charlie Nelson** and all of the Von Trapp "children" were vocal performances that were clear, strong, and nuanced, demonstrating mastery of both script and score. They were supported by faculty members, most notably **Mrs. Julie Haley**, as Mother Abess, whose singing brought the house down time and time again.

The play was directed by **Brooke Spencer**, in her first *Panache* production at New Covenant. Brooke is a graduate of LU, holding a degree in theater arts, and she took the

troupe in a completely new direction. She not only produced the play in six weeks, she also introduced a thrust stage in which the audience sat on three sides of the action. This brought everyone close to the actors, and required blocking and choreography that maximized the view for the most people.

It couldn't have been better. Children and adults alike were mesmerized by this innovative approach and the feeling of being in the action - especially when the Nazis showed up!

Miss Spencer is not finished. She is assisting **Emily Brisson** with the spring staging of *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.* which is a middle school play coming to New Covenant later this spring. You won't want to miss it.



# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

**LOST & FOUND** will be purged at noon on **Thursday, March 12**. New Covenant uniform items will go to the school store and be sold for \$1.00. All other items will be donated to a local charity.

**SPRING BREAK** will begin at noon for students in Pre-K through 8th grades on **Friday, March 13** and go through **Friday, March 20**. Students in grades 9-12 will dismiss at **12:15pm** due to exams. Students return on **Monday, March 23**.

**REPORT CARDS** for the third quarter will be issued **Friday, March 27**.

**SENIOR THESIS DEFENSES** will take place on **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 25, 26 & 27**. Details will be posted in a future *QUID NOVI*.

**APRIL LUNCH** ordering is now open and runs through **Friday, March 20**. Spring Break is the last half of this ordering period, so make sure to get your orders in early.

**GREENS AND JEANS** all students may wear jeans and a green or white top to school **this Friday** in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL** students will have a fun-filled castle tournament on our **half-day, Friday, March 13th**. Students may wear their team colors, PE shorts or loose athletic pants, and tennis shoes to school that day. Please check the team sheets posted in the middle school hallway or ask your homeroom teacher to find out what team you are on and what color to wear.

**HEAVENLY HATS Friday, March 27th** all students are invited to participate in a fundraiser for Heavenly Hats. Middle School Council organizes this fundraiser each spring to raise money for hats that are donated to cancer patients that have lost their hair as a result of their treatments. Students may donate \$1 and wear a favorite hat all day. If you would like more information about Heavenly Hats, please check out their website at [www.heavenlyhats.org](http://www.heavenlyhats.org).

**All for Good**  
A SERVICE OF POINTS OF LIGHT

Please help us earn 20 free tickets to Walt Disney World by visiting [www.allforgood.org/projects/bj740ek9](http://www.allforgood.org/projects/bj740ek9)

**HANDS & HEARTS**

*For the love of Christ compels us...  
II Corinthians 5:14*

**HANDS & HEARTS** sponsorship packets have been sent home with your students. We appreciate the completion of your packet and the return to the office by **this Friday, March 13**. Also, help us earn 20 free tickets to Walt Disney World by visiting [www.allforgood.org/projects/bj740ek9](http://www.allforgood.org/projects/bj740ek9) and signing up as a volunteer in our service project. Parents and grandparents are welcome to join us for the day as we serve our community. You may note your intentions to participate on the front of the sponsorship packet. Questions? Contact **Dayna Renalds** at [drenalds@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:drenalds@newcovenantschools.org)



Support New Covenant	2020 Goal	Year to Date
Annual Fund	\$150,000	\$75,485
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$15,287
Restricted Gifts		\$224,511
Hands & Hearts	\$40,000	\$1,350
The New Covenant Foundation	Pledged	Received
	\$231,300	\$205,742

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





## Spelling Bee, from p. 2

regional spelling bee.

About 500 students from across the country compete at the national level, and Jenna is excited to go to D.C. a third time. “It’s really fun. The spelling bee is very nerve-wracking, but other than that, I get to enjoy the city and meet new people.”

In town to support Jenna was another multi-year champion, **Jensen Schram** (New Covenant class of 2018). Schram won the 2013 and 2014 *News & Advance* Regional Spelling Bees and competed in the national competition both years. Jensen said she used to coach Jenna in volleyball and has enjoyed watching her passion for spelling grow as she’s gotten older.

Now a sophomore at George Mason University, Jensen said she made some of her best friends at the national spelling bee competition. “I still keep up with all of them,” Schram said. “We’re

all over the country doing amazing things.” Jensen said her wins helped create a competitive spirit at New Covenant Schools, and now she’s able to share her experience — and thousands of flashcards — with students who are passionate about the spelling bee there.

Former Lynchburg Mayor **Joan Foster**, Vice Mayor **MaryJane Dolan** and *The News & Advance* Opinion Editor **Logan Anderson** served as judges for the competition. Lynchburg City School Board member **Robert Brennan** also was in attendance. Executive Director of Camp Kum-Ba-Yah **Margie Lippard** served as the pronouncer for the competition.

We congratulate Jenna on this outstanding achievement and wish her the very best at the National Spelling Bee.

(compiled from *The News & Advance*)

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.