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MAJORIS

QUID NOVI

Our best picture
of Mr. Trittipoe

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

COMING, GOING & SERVING

Parents consistently comment to our staff and to me about the community they experience and value at New Covenant Schools. There are many factors that make a school feel like family. For example, while New Covenant is large enough to offer varied opportunities to our children, it is still small enough that every child is known by name and loved. Small classes contribute to close relationships with every student, and this fosters the sense of community in a positive way.

In addition to the size, however, there is another, more important factor at work in the community of the school. That is our faculty and staff members themselves. Through our long relationship with Independent School

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Management (ISM) we have learned that the student experience is fundamentally a *participation in the faculty/staff culture*. In other words, the health and well-being of our teachers, administrators and staff members is the single most important factor that ensures a positive parent and student experience.

Thus, we seek to be very intentional in caring for those talented men and women who spend so much time with your children. We try to find the most committed professionals available, and we seek to provide everything they need to support their craft. Our success in this area is manifested in two ways.

First, we take our own “temperature” three times each year by administering an instrument *see Coming and Going, p. 4*

GIVING
Annual Fund
- \$77,085
Scholarship
- \$15,887
Foundation
- \$208,743
Hands & Hearts
- \$31,065

WHAT'S NEW?

Last week we received the disappointing news from Buck and Jessi Walker that their son, Knox-3rd, had relapsed with leukemia. This, after a three-year regimen that we have followed as a school community with our prayers and financial support. Knox was first diagnosed in kindergarten, and treated until last fall, when he was pronounced cancer free. Knox now resumes a 30-day treatment after many tests last Friday, and the Walker’s Facebook page has regular updates on his condition. Many have indicated that they would like to offer support in tangible ways. There are several ways to help. First, you can jump on the meal train by signing up to provide meals here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/v118rg>. If you wish to support financially there is a GoFundMe page here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/financial-support-for-the-walker-family>. **You should know, however, that a percentage of your support is deducted by the website. If you want 100% to go directly to the Walker’s, simply write your check to All Saints Church with Knox Walker in the memo line and mail to the school office at 122 Fleetwood Drive/Lynchburg/24501. Your donation will go directly and quickly to the family in full.**

KNOX NATION

H O N O R A R I A

New Covenant recognizes the following members of the faculty and staff with gratitude for their years of service to our school.

RETIRING FROM SERVICE

John Heaton & Marion Patterson



I met **Gary Trittipoe** twenty two years ago. I was in my first year as the new Headmaster, and we were standing in the stacks of the old Jones Memorial Library (the neo-Greek Revival building on Rivermont Avenue). It was to be the “new” home for New Covenant students in grades 7-12, and it was a cool place. But what a mess it was! That day we painted the stairwell together. I’m not sure it made much of a difference to the look of the place, but we forged a friendship that led to his current position as Facilities Manager. **For fifteen years**, Gary has supervised the care of the Fleetwood campus, managed the custodial staff, and cultivated the finest soccer fields in the city. He can fix pretty much anything that’s broken. He’s got an easy way about him, with a get-along spirit that never shows impatience with students who make big messes, damage ‘his’ building, or throw lacrosse balls through the sheetrock in Moomaw gym. If you want to know why New Covenant always looks new, why the floors always shine, and why the curb appeal is spectacular, it’s because Gary has high standards for his staff and takes pride in our physical plant. Gary will retire this summer to spend more time at his farm in Bedford, fixing motorcycles and Corvettes. New Covenant will keep him “on-call” for special projects, so you just might see him around occasionally. We thank him for his service. -JH

Kathy Mosher joined the staff when we were operating on a rented campus on Liggates Road, without a home of our own. She immediately began organizing the administrators and teachers alike, designing and implementing processes that made the office hum. We began to believe what one of her previous employers had said, “Kathy will transform your office.” By putting to use her previous experiences in office work and an innate ability to multi-task, she quickly earned the title “Mama.” She kept our household running smoothly. Her quirky and understated sense of humor makes birthdays special and every day more pleasant. Her talents extend far beyond the office; she has played the piano for concerts and plays, and accompanied our students in music classes across the grades. Her gifts have fit precisely with the school’s needs over the years. **After nineteen years** Kathy is retiring to spend more time with her parents and husband, **Jeff**, and to enjoy some well-earned days off. -MP



MILESTONES

TWENTY AND UP CLUB



Gail Mitchell-25



Debbie Williamson-20



Phaedra Callaway-20

Three ladies join a growing list of “old-timers” who have served New Covenant for twenty years or more. **Debbie Williamson** has worked as our bookkeeper and has overseen the lunch staff and its volunteers. This coming year she will leave the bookkeeping position to assume the task of **Food Services Manager**, which will be responsible for not only the kitchen and its staff, but also all food concessions on campus. **Phaedra Callaway** has been the wonderful British “Voice of the Library,” delighting our children with stories for twenty years. Her love for books and care for the “LIH-bree” - as she pronounces it - is legendary. **Gail Mitchell** began her service at New Covenant in 1995, and has taught nearly every grade and most every subject at some point in her career. She is one of the few remaining faculty members who remember the early days of the school and has been part of its transformation. Now, at a quarter-century, Gail has served longer than any member of the faculty in the history of the school. Gail also serves as the Registrar.

H O N O R A R I A

MILESTONES

TEN & FIFTEEN CLUB



Cindy Sweeney-15



Wendy Ames-10



Brenda Davis-10



Natlie Olenik-10



Bridges Spiva-10

Five members of the faculty are recognized for service of ten and fifteen milestones. For the past ten years **Brenda Davis** has been part of the “lunch bunch” that prepares daily meals and oversees the lunchroom each day.

Wendy Ames, Natalie Olenik, and **Bridges Spiva** have served in kindergarten, grammar and middle school. Mrs. Ames has taught kindergarten and grammar school music

for years, but this past year, she also invested in our middle and grammar school chorus students, teaching them to use their voices with grace and beauty.

Mrs. Olenik completes her tenth year of outstanding work in the middle school, and welcomed her fourth child this spring.

The middle and grammar faculties have both been home for Bridges Spiva over her years of service. She has

specialized in math, science and Bible in 5th grade.

Second grade has long been the sweet spot for Mrs. Sweeney, who finishes her 15th year. During the 19-20 school year, she was honored with the **Teacher of the Year award by Lynchburg Living**. We look forward to many more years with each of these talented instructors. We congratulate and thank them for their work among us.

CLUB FIVE



Kyle Alexander-5



Jeremiah Forshey-5



Joe Lamagna-5



Doreen Loy-5



Jacob Webb-5

Five members of the faculty mark five years of service.

Kyle Alexander has served as Athletic Director advancing our sports programs dramatically. He has asked to have a larger teaching load with less administrative duties this fall and will now serve as the Assistant AD to John Maynard.

Jeremiah Forshey came to us after serving the Geneva School, Orlando. He

is an outstanding addition to our SoR faculty, and serves as Lead Teacher for the high school.

Joe Lamagna serves on the SoR science faculty and has been the driving force behind the marine science course that takes our students to the reefs of Cozumel, MX. In addition to biology and chemistry, Mr. Lamagna is a certified dive instructor and yoga instructor.

Doreen Loy came to us with a broad

teaching background across grade levels; her depth of understanding and commitment have been a blessing to our second graders.

Jacob Webb has shown his talents in a number of disciplines, and has settled into logic and Latin in the middle school. His classes are highlights of 7th and 8th grade.

We congratulate and thank these faculty members.

H O N O R A R I A

COMING & GOING



John Maynard

New Covenant welcomes three new staff persons to the team. **John Maynard** and his wife, **Kelsey**, join us from St. Anne's School in South Carolina where John has been the Athletic Director for the past six years. John will be taking over athletics as our new **AD**, while **Kyle Alexander** has asked for more of a teaching footprint and involvement with middle school sports. The Maynard's have already moved to Lynchburg (St. Anne's was closed also!) and John has been on campus, already underway with a smooth transition to the position.

Andrea Adams joins the administrative team as our new **Office Manager**. She has long been associated with New Covenant, with two children graduating from the School of Rhetoric, **Sydney** (class of 2017) and **Nick** (class of 2019). Both are currently studying at Virginia Tech. As a New Covenant mom, she was an active parent volunteer, and knows the school well. Her late husband, **David**, was involved, too, serving two terms on the board of directors (class of 2015 & 2018).



Andrea Adams

Darren Johnson is a long-time friend of the school. He formerly worked in management with the Lynchburg Hillcats, not only maintaining the City Stadium, but also in marketing and advertising for the team. That's how we met him, as New Covenant purchased advertising with the Hillcats (and got loads of baseball tickets to boot!).

We also know Darren from many deer hunting expeditions with **Gary Trittipoe**, so when Gary announced his retirement, we were happy to see his application. His background in turf management means that our soccer fields will stay pristine, and his management skills will serve us well in the maintenance of our buildings and equipment.

Andrea Loy will leave us this year. For the past three years, while her husband, **Blake** has been in medical school, she has served as our Publisher, getting *QUID NOVI* printed and posted, managing our website, and instructing yearbook class. We will miss all the Loy's dearly, as they move to Tennessee where Blake will begin medical residency.



Darren Johnson



Andrea Loy

Coming and Going, from p. 1

called the Faculty Culture Profile. It's not an evaluation of teachers; rather, it is proctored *by* the faculty and *for* the faculty, designed for instructors to reflect and share their own satisfaction with their work and with one another.

Not only are our scores consistently high, but they give us a means for identifying areas to improve. More than ten years of data has provided a long road map that has enabled us to respond to the needs of the folks who work at the heart of our mission.

The second way our positive faculty culture shows is by teacher retention. When we find good teachers we try to keep them. The school has been remarkably blessed, from the Headmaster's office throughout the entire staff, with a trend line that leans toward long retention. The *average* length of faculty service is now topping a *dozen* years, and many have served much longer, with senior leadership hovering right at twenty!

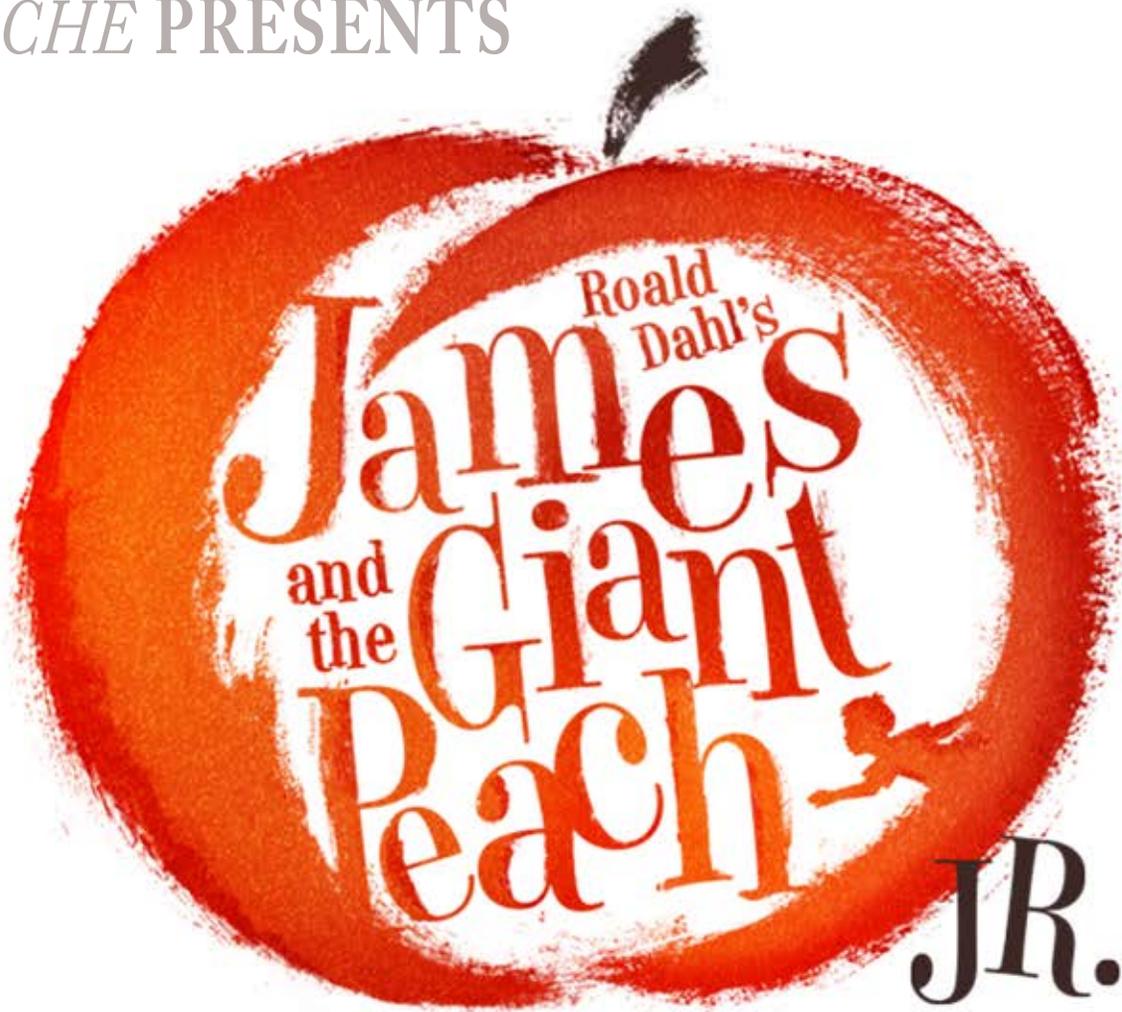
As our school approaches its *thirtieth* anniversary next fall, it enjoys the stability that comes from low staff turnover

and lengthy retention. Take a quick look at the names and photos in this *QUID NOVI* and you'll see teachers and staff members celebrating five, ten, fifteen, twenty and even twenty five years of service too! They have made an investment in this community, and that is what largely explains the positive difference that I hear in your comments.

We're not bragging - not at all - we are thanking God for this community! New Covenant is a wonderful place to work and teach, sharing the gifts that God has given us. We know what we have here, and how precious it is. Your children sense this. When you are on campus, you sense this. It is an intangible, almost mysterious quality that pervades the campus, and it has been cultivated carefully for years.

I am grateful for my esteemed colleagues. They are talented, energetic, and committed to classical, Christian education. They are, however, more than colleagues. They are each part of the family that is New Covenant Schools. We congratulate them and thank them for their service to our families.

PANACHE PRESENTS



Saturday, July 18 :
11am, 3pm and 7pm

TICKETS

All seating is General Admission and tickets may be
purchased at the door. \$8-adults \$5-students

NEW COVENANT schools
THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

E T C E T E R A



STAY FIT CAMP will be offered again this year to New Covenant students June 22–July 30. The camp will run Monday–Thursday from 9-11 am for rising 1st through 7th graders and 11:30 am - 1pm for 8th through 12th grade. The cost will be \$60 per child or \$105 for family. We look forward to seeing you soon.

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE GRYPHON SUMMER CAMPS SOON....



AMERICAN GIRL CAMP will be held this year JULY 20-24 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM and cost \$175 per child. This year's featured doll is Maryellen Larkin. A week long session is offered sharing and learning a girl's first hand experience of what it was like in a large family during the 1950s. Girls are encouraged to bring their American Girl Doll or any 18" doll. Crafts, cooking projects, history lessons, even a sock hop and much more are on the agenda for a week of fun with Mrs. Johnson. *Limited Helper Spots available for rising 6th graders \$80

GRYPHONS AT HOME...

