



NCS daily traffic on Fleetwood Road. See more in *Et cetera*.

# QUID NOVI

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020  
VOL. 23 NO. 10  
MAJORIS



## THE HISTORY TIMELINE *by John Heaton, Headmaster*

It's endearing and amazing to see five-year olds reciting the Timeline, but the magic of this learning tool doesn't fully reveal itself until our students become our graduates. If you're new to New Covenant, you might not know about this piece of our curriculum.

The seed for the idea came years ago from our reading of Dorothy L. Sayers' essay, *The Lost Tools of Learning*, in which she advocated strongly for the traditional method of education which included memorization for younger children. Most of our parents are young enough to have come through progressive schools where memorization was frowned upon. Indeed, some critics of New Covenant disagree with us most firmly on this point—that is, they believe that children should not be required to memorize much of anything! The underlying assumption is that rote memory is not meaningful, and therefore, unhelpful.

We disagree. In the essay Sayers reminded us that in the classical tradition “recitation aloud should be practiced, individually or in chorus; for we must not forget that we are laying the groundwork for disputation (logic) and rhetoric.” She went on to point out that since children have an enormous capacity to memorize at a time when it is neither burdensome nor onerous, we should take full advantage. We ought to fill their minds with all kinds of things—math facts, geographical facts, and, of course Latin paradigms. The Latin conjugation, *amo, amas, amat*, (I love, you love, he/she/it loves) is no different to a child than *eeney, meeny, miney, mo*.

But what is the purpose of the history timeline? Sayers addresses it perfectly:

“The grammar of history should consist, I think, of dates, events, anecdotes, and personalities. A set of dates to which one can peg all later historical knowledge is

*continued on p. 4*

## WHAT'S NEW?

## ATHLETIC BANNERS IN WORKMAN FIELD HOUSE



Six new banners have been hung beside the American flag in Workman Field House in recognition of athletic achievements reached over the years. Eleven athletes are honored for their accomplishments in basketball, soccer, volleyball, and lacrosse. You may read more about these athletes on page 2. Congratulations to each of these Gryphons and their families.

# H O N O R A R I A

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC HOUSE HEADS *by Jeremiah Forshey*

Students in New Covenant's School of Rhetoric are sorted into Houses of about 30 students each. The Houses of Canterbury, Antioch, Alexandria and Wittenberg are vertically integrated with freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors in each House. The Houses compete all year long in academics, competitive events, athletics, art and science fairs, and many other ways. Each House is led by a Head who is elected by its members. Together, the House Heads form the student government at New Covenant.

On Tuesday, the School of Rhetoric held its first House event: the election of this year's House Heads. The weather was perfect for us to sit outdoors and be socially distanced. Students gathered at the corners of the soccer field to hear candidates' speeches and vote, then had an extended lunch period to play.

Congratulations to the House Council for 2020-2021: **Chris Matney** and **Janna Renalds** from House Alexandria, **Ellen Anne Deneen** and **Phoebe Prillaman** from House Antioch, **Tessa Hackenbracht** and **Ann Claire Terrell** from House Canterbury, and **Konner Johnson** and **Bibby Kittrell** from House Wittenberg. Pray for their leadership as they represent the student body and creativity in finding ways to foster school spirit and bring us together.



**Chris  
Matney**



**Janna  
Renalds**



**Ellen Anne  
Deneen**



**Phoebe  
Prillaman**



**Tessa  
Hackenbracht**



**Ann Claire  
Terrell**



**Konner  
Johnson**



**Bibby  
Kittrell**

## BANNERS COMMEMORATE STUDENT ATHLETE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Covenant has long been known for the highest of academics and many of our top students have achieved notoriety in scholarship. It is worth pointing out, however, that over 70% of our students in grades 5-12 participate in at least one cocurricular sport each year, and some more than that. Just as notable as academic achievement, there are several student athletes that posted milestones in the last several years. These accomplishments are now posted for all time in the Workman Field House, with a very fitting display of banners.

There are six new banners. The Men's Basketball 1000 Point Club banner features the achievements of **Drew Bowman** (19) and **Jadon Walker** (21), though Jadon's total score is not yet complete! A second banner features the Men's Basketball 500 Point Club with **Michael Robertson** (18), **Juette Renalds** (19), and **Trai Harris** (17). The third banner features the Women's 500 Point Club with **Bailey Foster** (20) and **Chloe Ingersoll** (19).

Women's Volleyball boasts a banner with two members of the 300 Kills Club,

**Chloe Ingersoll** and **Corrine McCaw** (19). Chloe is now playing Division II collegiate volleyball. **Michael Minnick** (20) and **Dakota Witt** (18) are named on the Men's Soccer 50 Goal Club banner. **Juette Renalds**, **Calvin Hurt** (20) and **Aidan Morse** (17) are celebrated on the Men's Lacrosse 80 Goal Club banner.

We congratulate these alums and students on their Gryphon Athletics achievements.

# E T C E T E R A

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### SENIOR PICTURES

Senior class, individual, formal and casual portraits will be taken on **Tuesday, September 22**.

### END OF QUARTER

The School of Rhetoric (SOR) will have block exams on **Tuesday, October 13**. This marks the end of the 1st quarter for SOR. Dismissal time will be 12:15 pm..

## MIDDLE & GRAMMAR

### THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

This annual event will be held on **Friday, October 2 from 1:45 to 3:00 pm**. Grades K-8 will be dismissed to outdoor areas in intervals for the blessing and sharing of animals. More information will follow in next week's newsletter.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL POETRY RECITAL

Our Grammar School poetry finalists will present their poems on **Tuesday, September 29 at 6:30pm**. You are invited to join us in the Moomaw Gym for this delightful presentation of poetry. Be watching for an email with a SignUpGenius link to attend this event.

### PROOFS FROM TSS

Proofs from last Thursday's picture day have been emailed to NCS families. The email could be diverted to your junk mail, so remember to check there also. If you have not received this email, please contact **Beth Mayberry** at [bmayberry@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:bmayberry@newcovenantschools.org).

## EVERYONE

### LOST AND FOUND

Lost items from around campus are placed in boxes in the corner of the Moomaw Gym. These boxes are currently overflowing. If your student is missing an item or two, please check these boxes to see if anything belongs to you. As always, the boxes will be purged at the end of the quarter (**October 15**).

### FALL BREAK

This year's fall break will begin **Thursday, October 15 at noon** and goes through **Monday, October 19**. Students return on **Tuesday, October 20**.



### HELP NEEDED: VOLUNTEER TRAFFIC DIRECTORS

You've probably seen our Headmaster directing traffic in the afternoon pick-up line. This year with so many cars and fewer carpools, getting the traffic off Fleetwood Drive is of particular importance. New Covenant is looking for brave volunteers who might assist with this task. It requires an organized, assertive individual who can direct traffic in four directions. It only takes a few minutes from 2:50 pm to about 3:15 pm. We would be pleased to enlist a number of individuals who could take turns at the job on various days. Training would be provided. **Naomi Hostetler**, our Director of Parent Relations, can put you on a schedule. Interested? Contact Naomi at [nhostetler@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:nhostetler@newcovenantschools.org).

## ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

It's time to order yearbooks for 2020-21. Our past experience proves that the majority of parents appreciate when we automatically order **one yearbook per family**.

However, you may opt-out of ordering a yearbook. **Please email Robin Layne at [rlayne@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:rlayne@newcovenantschools.org) if you DO NOT want to receive a yearbook this year.**

**If we do not hear from you, we will bill your FACTS account \$50 on October 1 for your family yearbook.** If you want to order additional yearbooks, we can do the ordering for you through the end of October.

If you order through us, any additional yearbooks will be sold at a discounted rate of \$40. **After October 31**, additional books will be \$50 and will need to be purchased directly from Jostens.com.

Please check your email for a SignUpGenius where you can request to purchase additional yearbooks.



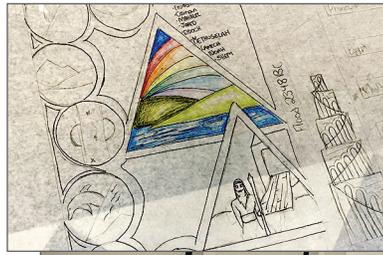
continued from p. 1

of enormous help later on in establishing the perspective of history. It does not greatly matter which dates: those of the Kings of England will do very nicely, [she was British, after all!] provided that they are accompanied by pictures of costumes, architecture, and other everyday things, so that the mere mention of a date calls up a very strong visual presentment of the whole period.”

Beginning in kindergarten our students learn our own history timeline. It consists of 91 dates that we chose—events from each century of recorded human history. Over time the events and dates teach students that history is linear, and they provide pegs in students’ minds upon which they might hang information later in their education. The youngest children use hand motions to help them remember each date in sequence. In addition, we have provided our teachers with a visual media program that illustrates each event in the timeline so that they can drill with the slides, or simply display the slide when they are addressing the event more thoroughly in the later grades.

It takes a long time to travel through it. As students progress through the grades, this timeline is entrenched in their minds. One graduate remarked, “It’s something you wish you could forget, but you just can’t! It’s been drilled into me.” It provides an outline—I call them pegs—that students can use mentally to locate themselves in history. By the time they reach 10th grade they will re-create timelines of the world in world history class. You can see the ten-foot scrolls they are making right now in the School of Rhetoric wing!

Built upon this foundational knowledge, there is a higher level. I teach our seniors in Intermediate Greek. Most were here in grammar or middle school. Because of the History Timeline, all of them know that the Council of Nicea was held in a.d. 325. They learned it as youngsters, and again in world history,



**Students working on their history timelines.**

along with the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, Constantine and the fall of the Roman Empire. By the time they reach me, they are ready for a capstone assignment. Each year my students translate the Nicene Creed from Greek to English, the exact creed produced by bishops from around the Empire at the Council in a.d. 325. This is the same creed recited each week in traditional churches, and is recognized by the Church as the very definition of *what* a Christian must believe.

Moreover, we spend a week discussing its history and significance. I show them how the Council of Nicea has impacted their lives more than the Vietnam War. As we know, the Creed of Nicea declared that the only man in the history of the world to possess deity was Jesus the Christ. The political implications for Constantine meant that the door was forever closed to all those who would rule and reign as gods on earth, as had the recent Roman Emperors, and as Constantine might secretly have wished to do. The Council of Nicea provided the deep rationale for denying the deity of emperors, transferring it properly to the King of Kings. The Christian West was born in a.d. 325, and in one stroke it provided the intellectual preconditions for individual liberty and the restraint of totalitarian governments that had dominated the ancient world. In short, it made possible the republican form of government we enjoy in America today.

Do our kindergarteners know that? Of course not. Do our graduates? If we do our jobs, they should. It all begins with the History Timeline.

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2021 • Mike Lovell • Kristin Durand • CLASS OF 2022 • Dr. Tim Brophy • Bob Price • Leslie Moeller • Dan Vollmer • Amy Bonebright • Class of 2023 • Kristin Hampton • Darryl Whitesell • Nancy Hall • Sam Mizener • Tom Rogers • Anne Scruggs

### EX OFFICIO

Rev'd John Heaton

### 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 lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS