



SoR poetry recital finalists. Congratulations to Adora Hampton (9th), Jude Vollmer (10th), Ellie Walker (11th), and Tessa Hackenbracht (12th) for winning performances.

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MAJORIS



# QUID NOVI

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

## A WORK IN THE MAKING *by John Heaton, Headmaster*

I sat mesmerized last Thursday night watching the poetry recital finals for the School of Rhetoric. It was a perfect evening to be in the courtyard with mild temperatures and the smell of popcorn floating on the gentle breeze. Our students did not disappoint. While I am always impressed with our students, this year's finalists were so closely clustered in their performances that there was no way to discern who would win the class, much less who would win the coveted Jefferson Cup. They took us across the spectrum with selections from the sublime to those that bordered on the ridiculous.

Jeremiah Forshey, who teaches literature to our juniors and seniors, was our emcee for the evening. As he introduced the recitalists, he reminded us that a poem is a creation, a creation of words. A well-written poem can transport us to another world, to a universe of ideas, or awaken

feelings in us that only surface when touched by an artist. The best poetry takes command of the language, turns the phrase and puts the meaning of deeper things within reach. As my friend Andrew Kern says, "By compacting so many things into so small a space, poetry cultivates a poetic faculty, thus refining the working of the intellect and imagination. Sometimes the poem will be obviously complicated, full of misdirection and secondary meanings. Other times, the poem will seem to be obvious but will be telling you a great deal more than you thought it was on the first read."

As I listened to the students I thought of the familiar scripture by St. Paul to the Ephesians: "We are his workmanship, created unto good works that we should walk in them." The underlying Greek language is picturesque. The word rendered "workmanship" is the word **poihia** (pronounced poy A mah). It literally means, a making, a doing or

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## WHAT'S NEW?

One does not realize how often water fountains are used throughout the day until the fountains are off limits due to mitigations. Students have been bringing water from home to sip in class and coolers are placed in the hallways each morning for refills. We are pleased to announce that there are two new water bottle filling stations in the school. These are attached to the fountains next to the science lab and in the middle school hallway. Thank you to generous donors who helped us with this need, and to Darren Johnson, Facilities Manager, and Ernie Spiva for working on the installation.

## WATER FOUNTAIN ENHANCEMENTS

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# HONORARIA

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNCIL

Each fall, 7th and 8th graders elect a Council to take the lead in building a positive and supportive school culture. Their duties include choosing and managing service projects both inside and outside of school, and planning fun events throughout the year. These eight students will begin serving in second quarter.



**Abby Burton** is a creative and determined student who looks forward to listening to the ideas of others. Her idea for a service project is creating an art outreach at ARC, and she would like to add clubs and other activities after school.



**Elizabeth Deneen** loves to help and listen. She would like us to collect and donate pet supplies to the Humane Society, and reminds us that, "You're never too busy to vote for Lizzie."



**Emma Fritz** wants to add creative competitions between grades in MS, and suggests that we donate food, clothing and supplies to the AGAPE Center to help the poor. "Use your wits—vote for Fritz."



**Corey Hackenbracht** pledges to listen to the ideas of all. For fun, he would add outdoor events, free dress days, and ice cream parties; for service, he is interested in supporting the Food Bank.



**Cora Helm** pledges to set an example of leadership (1 Tim. 4:12) and would like us to conduct a book drive for others. She is ready to speak for and listen to all.



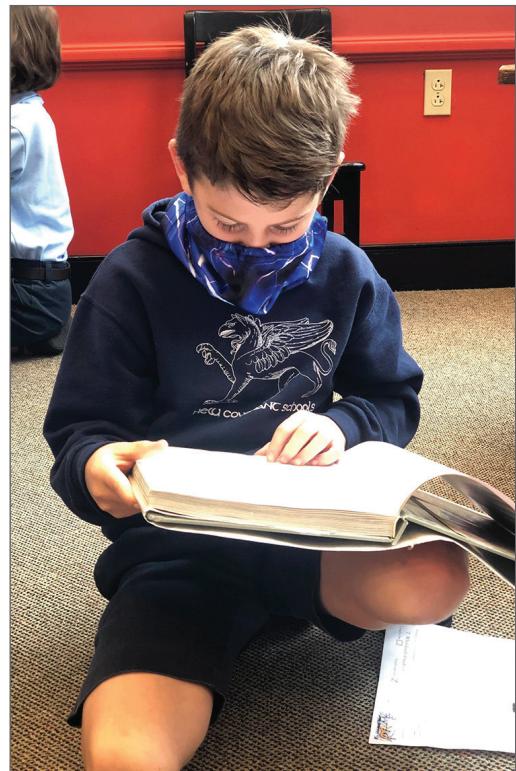
**Jenna Ng** recommends that we create a MS birthday board, work to be kind and inclusive to all, and find ways to serve the Parkview Community Mission. "Don't be in a dilemma, vote for Jenna."



**David E. Tolle** would like to make NCS low-stress by providing for more interaction between students and having games on half days. He would like to combine a food drive with a competition between classes—groups will create sculptures with cans of food. The food will benefit the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.



**Declund Stevenson** would like to install benches for outdoor classrooms and make changes to the uniform code, such as allowing white hoodies. Service projects he suggests are improving trails in the woods and other building projects on campus.



*Grammar School classes enjoy an afternoon of getting lost in a good book at the NCS library.*

## FINANCING EDUCATION STRATEGIES

Would you like to know more about the VA 529 Savings Plan and the VA Educational Improvement Tax Credits Scholarship Program? These programs offer ways for you to pay school tuition with tax-free savings and make a bigger impact with your charitable gift. Join us for breakfast this Wednesday at 7:30 am to hear from our Director of Development on how these programs work. Reserve your spot through this link [www.signupgenius.com/go/409084bafab2ca3f58-newcovenant6](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084bafab2ca3f58-newcovenant6)

# ET CETERA

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### PSAT

Grades 10 & 11 will be undergoing PSAT testing this **Thursday, October 29**. As is our custom, the **School of Rhetoric (grades 9-12)** will not begin until 9:00 am that day (the rest of the school starts on time). This is to allow students the opportunity to get a bit more sleep before this testing. If you need to drop off your SOR students at the normal time, we will have supervised study halls.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY

Finals will be held on **Friday, October 30 at 8:15 am** and will be broadcast via Zoom. This is a time change from the originally published information. The Zoom link will be emailed to parents in the middle school and all are invited to join in.

## EVERYONE

### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

We will be holding K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences on **Wednesday, November 4, from 12:30-6:00 pm**. You will receive a SignUp Genius notice to register online. **Students do not attend school this day.**

### HELP THE LIBRARY WITH YOUR PURCHASE

The library wants to remind you that Givens Books & Little Dickens has a rebate program that has provided our library with hundreds of free books. Here's how the program works: our library receives 3% of your pre-tax purchase total, which is given annually as a credit to our library.

When you check out, simply mention New Covenant Schools to the cashier, and your purchase will be recorded. Remember, any family member can participate—parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, too—so be sure to spread the word! Thank you for supporting our school library.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP for 2021-22 school year will accept applications from **November 9, 2020, through January 31, 2021**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis! So do not delay! Click here to apply: [www.factsmgt.com/aid](http://www.factsmgt.com/aid). Please be watching your email for more detailed instructions in the coming weeks.

### BOX TOPS

If you have been collecting paper box tops, please submit them to your teachers and/or to the front desk. The deadline for submitting these is **tomorrow, October 27**.

### ENROLLMENT UPDATE

The school year is well underway and the admissions department at New Covenant is already starting to prepare for next year! Applications for the 2021-2022 school year are now being accepted for brand new siblings in all grades. As a reminder, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes can fill quickly. Click here to start your application: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>.

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

There will be no school **Monday, November 23 through Friday, November 27** for our Thanksgiving Break. Students return to school on **Monday, November 30**.



## SPORTS SCORES

### MS BOYS SOCCER

NCS .....	8
Timberlake .....	0
NCS .....	2
SW Virginia Home School .....	0
NCS .....	3
Veritas School.....	0

### VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

NCS .....	0
Veritas School.....	3

### JR GRYPHONS VOLLEYBALL

NCS .....	3
Timberlake .....	0

### MS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

NCS .....	2
Timberlake.....	0

### JV GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

NCS .....	2
Timberlake .....	0
NCS .....	2
State Line.....	1

### VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

NCS .....	0
Timberlake .....	3
NCS .....	3
State Line.....	0

## PLEASE NOTE

The school nurse email address is:  
schoolnurses2020@newcovenantschools.org

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	YTD	
Annual Fund	\$30,000		\$7,057
General Scholarship	\$10,000		\$13,404
Foundation	\$200,000	Pledged Received	\$195,500 \$31,566

Please consider New Covenant Schools in your giving. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

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creation, and it is the word that comes directly into the English language as “poem.” We are God’s poem, his making, his creation, made to demonstrate by our lives the truth of another world, the reality of the divine, and to awaken others to truth, goodness and beauty. This is what Gerard Manley Hopkins called *inscape*, the belief that when a created thing is doing that thing for which he was created, when he is being most himself, he embodies within himself God’s glory at its most pure, a glory brighter than ten thousand suns. This can happen when we are touched by The Artist.

In the classical tradition poetry recitation falls into the rhetorical category known as impersonation, and also constitutes the most difficult form of rhetoric. This is the exercise employed in all drama, and requires the speaker to step into a character, to inhabit the character so thoroughly as to clearly speak the lines convincingly as though he were that character. Poetry is an elevated form of this, an art form that benefits from the elevation of language and the deployment of metaphor. When performed well, as our students demonstrate each year, it helps all of us hear our mother tongue and appreciate what good speech sounds like.

Good poetry is visceral and vivid, and often appeals to the universal details of human experience. Most of our interaction with texts, however, is radically unlike the interaction between poem and reader. We gloss textbooks for

facts, novels for excitement and wisdom, and emails for things to remember. With poetry, on the other hand, pure aesthetic enjoyment is always a crucial facet of the reading experience. Poetry offers the prospect of an engagement with beauty. Poetry offers us an opportunity for the simple delight in the senses that we all experienced as children.

Of course, reciting aloud adds another layer to our experience entirely. Because we are not an “oral-auditory” culture, it is difficult for us to sit and listen for an extended period of time. Most churches do not even read Scripture out loud at length, and there are few venues where people are asked to be quiet and hear. Listening requires a posture of passive activity. On the one hand, we listen to a poem spoken to us and receive it as a whole. On the other, there is a bit of work on the listener’s part to process, to follow, to engage with the meaning.

Each year at New Covenant the curriculum requires every student from the youngest to the oldest to engage in the exercise of memorizing poems, both delivering them and receiving them. In the younger grades it is easy enough with Mother Goose rhymes, but as students progress, the poems grow longer, more complex. At the high school level, many of the poems require great skill in order to convey the precise meaning of the author, and an empathetic interpretation to bring forth the intended response in the listener. Taken together, it’s a work in the making.

## HELP THE YEARBOOK WITH YOUR PHOTOS



If you have taken good photos of events or activities around NCS, you are invited to submit them throughout the year for consideration for inclusion in the annual yearbook. **We are now particularly looking for any sports, summer, or Convocation photos.** Send your submissions as JPG attachments (largest/actual size) to **Mark Hernandez** at **Mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org**.

## 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