



First graders in Mrs. Ivins' class are reading!

QUID NOVI

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

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MAJORIS



NOVEMBER IS FOR READERS *by John Heaton, Headmaster*

There's been a quiet little revolution going on over in first grade. Students there are learning to read! That's right. November is the month that written language comes together for our young scholars.

New Covenant teaches students to read through a phonetic method developed by Romalda Spalding in the mid-20th century. While there are a hundred ways to teach children to read, the Spalding method is likely the most intensely phonetic. Mrs. Spalding analyzed the English language and isolated 71 phonetic sounds along with the letters that symbolized them. In her method students learn the letters, not by name, but by the sounds they make. Many letters make

more than one sound, like "s" which can say "ssss," but which can also say "zzzz" at the end of a word. Some sounds are made by two or more letters, like "ai" (aisle, trail) and other combinations can make up to six sounds, like "ough" - "oh" (though), "oo" (through), "uf" (rough), "off" (cough), "aw" (thought), and "ow" (bough). These are called phonograms.

We begin Spalding Phonics in Kindergarten where students learn 54 of the 71 phonograms to mastery. They learn to write, printing first, as their teachers vocalize the sounds of letter to them, and they record them in their composition books, saying them back to the teacher carefully as they form the letters. This process makes kindergarten students "reading ready." They will form words with the

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WHAT'S NEW?

New Covenant Schools is offering weekly tours upon appointment for prospective families and students in place of our usually scheduled fall Open House. It is important for those interested in New Covenant to see our classes at work and interact with our students and administration. Parents may call **Linda Simon** in the admissions office to make an appointment to visit our school. Additionally, kindergarten applications for 2021-22 are now being accepted. Current NCS students have preference until December 1, but we encourage you to apply today as we have already received over half of our applications for next year's kindergarten class.

WEEKLY TOURS IN FULL SWING

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

PRILLAMAN NOMINATED FOR LEADERSHIP AWARD

Senior **Phoebe Prillaman** has been nominated by the School of Rhetoric Faculty to apply for the **Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Leadership Award**. This award was established by Senator Byrd 21 years ago and is open to deserving graduating students across Virginia. These students must consistently display excellence of character, qualities of leadership, devotion to duty, and academic accomplishment. Phoebe will submit her application to the award screening committee, and has the potential to be named a finalist for the award. If so, she will then proceed to a two-day interview process and possibly be named a winner. The award carries a \$10,000 scholarship to each winning finalist. Congratulations, Phoebe!



HANDS & HEARTS SERVES THE SALVATION ARMY

COVID 19 is to blame for a lot. Our annual spring project that we call Hands & Hearts was not cancelled, but parts of the project were postponed from spring to summer. Last month **Mr. Heaton** and School of Rhetoric students **Dalton Foster, Will Spruill, Will Rooney,** and **Michael Marotta** took six new holly bushes which the Salvation Army staff had wanted to plant around their sign. The previous shrubbery was overgrown and obscured the signage, so New Covenant renovated the entire parcel, complete with mulch.

This year the Salvation Army will have a reduced number of bell ringers and collection sites for the holidays. They

will be calling for donations, however, with a very visible new kettle that was specifically designed and manufactured for them by New Covenant. Art instructor **Michael Dunaway** took a large red tub and fashioned it to look like a giant kettle. The Salvation Army will not only use this in visible places to attract donations, but they will be using it on a fundraising scavenger hunt this fall.

Check out the Salvation Army website or Facebook page to see more information on how you can participate in their scavenger hunt. It looks like fun!

The student participation in Hands & Hearts has become notable for those



organizations that we seek to assist. It provides free help for their projects, and it often finds and fulfills opportunities that would otherwise go unfunded. This project is possible because our students are willing to work, and they put their best efforts into the project, partnering with their teachers and assisted by many parents.



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	YTD	
Annual Fund	\$30,000	\$12,142	
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$13,404	
Foundation	\$200,000	Pledged	\$349,500
		Received	\$32,566

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.

E T C E T E R A

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

PANACHE

We are excited to announce *Panache's* production this year is going to be THE WIZARD OF OZ. Auditions will be held this **Wednesday, November 11** from **5:30-7:30pm** in the chapel. Parents should plan to join us at **7:00pm** for a parent meeting where important dates and information will be given out.

FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

Join us next **Thursday, November 19** at **7:00 pm** for our fall athletic awards. All JV and varsity athletes and their families are invited.

EVERYONE

VETERANS DAY

All students and faculty are invited to wear jeans and a red, white or blue shirt this **Wednesday, November 11** in honor of Veterans Day. Jeans must be free of tears or rips.

JOB OPENING

We are seeking a School of Rhetoric student who is at least 16 years old to fill a new position—Assistant Manager of winter concessions. This will be a competitively paid position requiring a commitment of 5-10 hours per week during basketball season. If interested, please contact **Linda Hackenbracht**, Director of Finance, for an application and detailed job description.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP applications for the 2021-22 school year will be accepted from **TODAY 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** in applying! To apply visit: www.factsmgt.com/aid. Please refer to an email sent on **Thursday, November 5** for detailed instructions.

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 2021-22 school year are now being accepted for brand new siblings in all grades. As a reminder, **Pre-K and Kindergarten classes can fill quickly**. Visit our website to start your application: www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/.

LUNCH ORDERING

It's time to order lunch for December. Remember, pizza must be preordered. The deadline is **Friday, November 20** – right before Thanksgiving Break. Monthly lunch ordering is a family task. The lunch staff does not do this for you. Once the ordering period closes, parents are unable to add orders. Helpful information on the ordering process may be found on the school website by clicking **My NCS>My Meal Plan** and then **View instructions for ordering Lunch**. Questions may be directed to **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

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**.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Student progress reports will be issued by email on **Wednesday, November 18**.

AUDITIONS FOR THE WIZARD OF OZ

When: Wednesday, Nov. 11th from 5:30-7:30pm

Where: Chapel

Who: 9th-12th grade students

What to prepare: 30 seconds of favorite Disney song

(There will be a parent meeting from 7:00-7:30 this night to go over more information)



YEARBOOK ADS

Do you own or manage a local business? Please consider placing a business ad in the New Covenant Schools yearbook to support our graphic design class and receive nonstop advertising for years to come. Ads are available in full, half and quarter page slots. Contact **Mark Hernandez** at Mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org for more information. Design services are complimentary.

PLEASE NOTE

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

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letters they've learned, and some of the students will read in kindergarten – my two girls did – but the first grade is the New Covenant reading year.

This fall our first graders have been learning the rest of their phonograms to mastery. By now they know all the sounds in the English language, they have drilled them by flashcards, and they have journaled words that employ all the vocal symbols. With this information, Mrs. Spalding proved that students could avoid reading dull books with limited vocabulary restricted by the few letters they knew. In her system students in first grade are reading real books, and it all happens around November.

Each week they will continue to journal 20 or 30 words, carefully underlining the phonograms they see, and marking individual letters with a 1, 2, 3, or 4, to indicate which sound the letter is making. In addition, they are learning the 29 rules that govern the spelling of English words. After each word they will identify the rule or rules which tell them why the word is spelled as it is. You might remember “i” before “e” except after “c” or when sounding like “a” as in “neighbor” and “weigh.” That’s rule 9, of course. There are 28 others, and five rules that govern final “e.” They learn all of this.



Students will stay with Spalding Phonics through grade 4. The word lists developed by Mrs. Spalding are extensive, arranged by the frequency of their use. Students not only hone their reading skills, but also expand their vocabulary. By third grade we introduce cursive, which most schools dropped from their curricula long ago. Handwriting was important to Mrs. Spalding, something to be practiced, and every student learns manuscript and cursive to an objective standard. Next time you are in the Grammar School hallways, check out the handwriting samples displayed on the walls. It’s impressive.

So we congratulate our youngest scholars this week! November is for readers!



First graders start their reading life with the classic Go Dog Go.



SPORTS SCORES

Friday, November 6

MEN'S VARSITY SOCCER

NCS	0
James River Homeschool	1
NCS	0
Fork Union Military Academy.....	2

Saturday, November 7

MEN'S VARSITY SOCCER

NCS	0
Lynchburg Homeschool	2
NCS	1
Grace Christian	1

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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 lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS