

# QUID NOVI

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS



## ICE AND SNOW: YOUR CALL—YOU HAVE THE POWER *by John Heaton, Headmaster*

This morning's snow dusting reminded me that you might appreciate a review of our procedures when snow is in the forecast.

First, in the interest of full disclosure, I am a Florida Native, a Gators fan, and I didn't wear socks until I moved to Virginia. I was a young adult in college before I ever saw snow, and the first time it happened, I looked out my dorm window to view the light dusting that had fallen overnight. There wasn't much on the ground, the grass was poking through, and, as far as I could tell, it appeared that someone had brought in truckloads of white sand from Daytona Beach. Yep, that's what it looked like. White sand. Boy was I homesick.

When it comes to calling snow days for the purpose of delays or closures, my job gets tricky. I am certain to blow the call now and again. So be patient. Here is how my calculus works. When snow is called for, I get up very early and check all my weather sources. Few of them are any good at predicting what's going to happen. **If a delay or closure is indicated, I will try to send notice of that to you by 6:00 a.m. I will use your email of record in RenWeb and change the "Closings" notice at WSET.com.** Those are the only outlets that I will use.

Please be aware that we have students from Nelson County and halfway to Bedford, and from Big Island to Appomattox. That is a wide range, and it means that we may have a delay/closure because of conditions in one of those locations. Thus, there

may be no snow on the ground where you are, but you can be assured that the call was made taking the whole community into consideration.

In heavy snow or ice events the main roads are plowed with reasonable speed. Fleetwood Drive, however, is usually the last road to be plowed (I have seen plows run down Wyndale Drive, and skip Fleetwood altogether!). Moreover, Fleetwood Drive has a northern exposure and lots of shade. It is not unusual, therefore, for most roads to be clear and dry while Fleetwood has an inch of ice. I could get 100% of our students as far as the News & Advance, but that last 1/8 mile will stop everything. There is no way that 200 cars can safely navigate by one another with even patchy ice on Fleetwood. Please keep that in mind when you are tempted to complain that school is still closed.

My preference, of course, is to minimize snow days. They are inconvenient to parents who must go to work and need childcare. Thus, New Covenant is often the last to close and, in some cases, we continue to have school when others shutter the night before. I do not make those decisions lightly, and I will not put you or your children at risk. I am simply suggesting that it is often the case that the weather event simply does not materialize as forecasted. In those situations, we go to school. On the other hand, when ice or freezing rain occurs, my call will be much more aggressive.

That said, the decision to come to school on a

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### FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	YTD
Annual Fund	\$30,000	\$27,247
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$13,922
Foundation	\$200,000	Pledged \$364,500 Received \$67,566

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

## EVERYONE

### LESSONS & CAROLS CANCELLED

The Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols has been cancelled.

### CALENDAR CHANGE

Please note that school will begin at **8:00 am on Friday, December 11**. This is a change to the originally published time on the master calendar.

### LUNCH ORDERING

The deadline to order lunch for January is **Friday, December 18**. Remember, pizza must be preordered.

### NEW SIBLING APPLICATIONS

The deadline for current families to submit a NEW student application has passed. You may still apply for your NEW student, but seats are no longer protected. Apply now to avoid potential wait pools by using this link: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) –APPLY NOW!

TAP is now accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year. The link to access FACTS tuition assistance applications is <https://online.factsmtg.com/aid>. When applying, you will be asked to submit your 2019 tax returns. The fee to apply is \$35, and is charged by FACTS, not the school. Please note that applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis similar to last year. The deadline to apply for TAP is **January 31, 2021**. Do not

**delay in applying!** Please refer to an email sent on **Thursday, November 5** for detailed instructions.

### CHRISTMAS BREAK SCHEDULE

School will be dismissed for Christmas Break on **Friday, December 18 at 11:00 am** for students in **Pre-K-8th grades**. All students return on **Wednesday, January 6**.

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### FINAL AND MID-TERM EXAMS

The School of Rhetoric final and mid-term exams have been cancelled.

### FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

This **Wednesday, December 9** from **3:15-4:15 pm** the FCA will host an event featuring guest speaker, **Dr. Jared Pingleton**. We invite students in grades 7-8 to attend in person. Grades 9-12 will receive a Zoom link via email.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

The MS Student Council has organized a food drive to support the Blueridge Food Bank during this Christmas season. We will be collecting nonperishable food items during the week of **December 14-18**. All MS students are asked to participate to help the food bank and to compete with the other MS classes. The class that brings in the most food items will receive a free dress day!



### YEARBOOK: SENIOR ADS

Parents of seniors,

In keeping with tradition, you can celebrate and congratulate your senior student with a custom-designed ad in the yearbook.

Just provide photos and your message and the yearbook team will do the rest. Reserve your ad by **December 18**. Photos due **January 8**.

Ads are available in half-page slots @ \$75. Contact **Mark Hernandez** at [Mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:Mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org) to purchase your senior's ad.

### JADON WALKER SCORES CAREER HIGH FOR SINGLE GAME

On Saturday the Men's Varsity Basketball team traveled to Hargrave Military Academy to play the Tigers, who were favored in the match. The Gryphons came out strong and were leading by five at the half. **Jadon Walker** had a breakout game scoring a career high for a single game with 49 points. Foul trouble in the third quarter hurt our chances and down the stretch the Gryphons could not stop the Hargrave offense. The final score was 85-70. The team was pleased with its performance in a game that many did not think would be so close. Congratulations, Jadon.



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questionable morning is always in your hands. It is always your call—you have the power. If the roads in your neighborhood prevent you from getting to a dry main road, stay home. Do not risk your car or your safety. In such cases your student will not be counted late or absent; you will

have a personal snow day. Teachers will work to make sure that your child does not get behind.

Thank you for your patience and understanding when we must sort out conflicting information regarding weather.