



*The Wizard of Oz performances this weekend delighted the NCS community.*

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MAJORIS



# QUID NOVI

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

## MEASURING LEARNING *by Marion Patterson, Principal*

In the NFL, success and failure are obvious. For a quarterback, his weekly rating, earned by efficiency in moving the ball down the field, tells the story. For a defensive lineman, tackles, batted balls, and sacks count, and for a team, winning the Super Bowl is the ultimate proof of excellence.

In schools success must be measured as well, but our goals are not always as clear as the uprights or as easily quantified as rushing yards gained. Our accrediting agency, VAIS, helps schools like New Covenant to look inward, studying their own practices and outcomes with an eye towards continuous improvement. If our goal is to maximize student learning, first we must measure it.

During the course of each school year, three distinct types of student assessments are going on

in our classrooms. Every day, informal assessments are woven into each lesson, giving the teachers feedback on every student's understanding of material and grasp of learning tools. This feedback informs and shapes the lessons the teachers will plan for coming days. Formal assessments are also completed across the disciplines. Regular testing occurs frequently at all grade levels to help us document progress towards academic goals in reading, mathematics, writing and Latin, as well as other classes. In the younger grades, for example, students demonstrate mastery of beginning language skills through weekly spelling tests. They also complete a 50-word spelling test monthly. It is not graded, and students do not study for it; rather, it shows progress from month-

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## WHAT'S NEW?



## RAPID AGING HAS OCCURRED IN KINDERGARTEN

It's a momentous day in our Kindergarten classrooms today as students celebrate our 100th day of school. They have been working hard since the middle of August learning the day-to-day routine of school, developing the mechanics of handwriting, memorizing recitations and phonograms, and counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's to 100. Each student has matured dramatically! In celebration of the day, students dressed as a 100-year-old person and had themed "100 day" snacks. Congratulations to our students and teachers for completing 100 days of in-person school.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# HONORARIA

## STONE CLARK AWARDED DOLAN CITIZENSHIP AWARD



Each year the Bank of the James recognizes one senior from each Region 2000 area high school who possesses the qualities of integrity, trustworthiness, and loyalty. Grounded in community service and citizenship qualities, this distinction requires a nomination from both faculty and administration. We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Ronald V. Dolan Citizenship Award is **Stone Clark**. Congratulations, Stone!

## SENIORS RECOGNIZED AS THEY PLAY FINAL GAMES & SHOWS

Each year milestone accomplishments are celebrated with inevitable sadness as we recognize our seniors concluding their careers in athletics and drama. The calendar is dotted with senior nights as parents join their children on the court or on stage for recognition.

Last Thursday the Women's Varsity basketball team celebrated Senior Night honoring **Bibby Kittrell, Emilee Newsome, Phoebe Prillaman, Janna Renalds and Sophia Rucker**. Three of the five have been at New Covenant since kindergarten. Phoebe and Janna will both leave New Covenant as top-five scorers in Women's Basketball. The girls hosted a difficult opponent in the Carlisle School, rushing out to a big lead and hanging on down the stretch to win 55-47. Phoebe led the team with 19 points and Phia Rucker hauled down 16 rebounds.

It was not senior night for the Men's Varsity, but they played North Cross School on Friday night, a team they have struggled to beat since middle school. The Gryphons stormed out to an early lead

and led by ten points all the way until North Cross cut it in the 4th quarter. Two key shots from the Raiders tied the game with seconds to go. The Gryphons stayed calm, dominated a 4-minute overtime period, and won with a stunning 68-61 victory. Senior **Jadon Walker** paced the Gryphons with 44 points and 18 rebounds. **Dalton Foster** added 15 points. Both teams begin VISA State Tournament play this week.

The *Wizard of Oz* was staged by Panache last Friday and Saturday with four outstanding performances and four outstanding seniors. **Tessa Hackenbracht** (the Wicked Witch of the West), **Stone Clark** (the Scarecrow), **Brandon Hostetler** (Uncle Henry), and **Konnor Johnson** (the Tin Man), turned in stellar performances which excited parents and students alike. It was a welcome moment to see live theater in a time of COVID, and the newly renovated Moomaw Center had superlative sound and staging. Tessa leaves New Covenant having performed in 10 shows; Stone completed his 9th show; Brandon finished his 7th show; and



*Senior women varsity basketball players honored at Senior Night (top) and the cast of the Wizard of Oz.*

Konnor Johnson delighted the audience in his 7th appearance.

We'll miss our senior athletes and thespians as they graduate this spring.

# ET CETERA

## EVERYONE

### WINTER UNIFORM CLARIFICATION

For young women: leggings should meet the socks, match the uniform, and fit like tights (not sweat pants). No wild and crazy colors or leggings that stop just below the knee. Leg warmers are prohibited. On days when the forecast high temperature is 40 or below, girls may wear uniform slacks, even on dress day, with their normal dress day tops (if slacks have belt loops, a belt must be worn). For young men and women: long-sleeved t-shirts may be worn under long-sleeved shirts for extra warmth. If the t-shirt is white or navy, it may be worn under a short-sleeved shirt as well. Outerwear, other than the New Covenant hoodie or fleece, may not be worn in the building.

### WIZARD OF OZ DAY RESCHEDULED

All students PK-12 are invited to dress as an Oz character this **Friday, February 26**. Those students choosing not to participate in the costume day will be required to remain in uniform dress.

### MOMS IN PRAYER

All moms are invited to join with other moms as they pray for our school community. They meet **each Thursday at 2pm**.



## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### LATIN EXAM

Students in Grades 7-11 will sit for the National Latin Exam on **Monday, March 1**.

### WINTER SPORTS PHOTOS

Winter sports photos for JV/Varsity athletes have been rescheduled for **Tuesday, March 2**. Athletes should bring home and away uniforms that day. No pre-order is necessary but if you desire an individual photo of your athlete, please let **Beth Mayberry** ([bmayberry@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:bmayberry@newcovenantschools.org)) know by Monday, March 1st.

### WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

We will hold the Winter Sports Awards Ceremony during the school day on **Wednesday, March 3 at 12:40pm**.

Parents with students in the School of Rhetoric will receive a link for viewing the event.

### SNOW DAY POLICY CHANGE

Parents of students in the School of Rhetoric only should note the following change to snow day policy. This year the SoR has pivoted online twice due to COVID concerns; moreover, we have garnered a higher-than-normal number of snow days since January. Thus, the SoR will pivot to online on any additional snow days, should they occur. This policy only affects the SoR, and only holds for the current term. In the event of a snow day, SoR instructors will immediately email necessary assignments, materials and ZOOM links to students so that instruction may continue virtually.



**Senior Tessa Hackenbrach as the Wicked Witch in the Wizard of Oz.**

Brianne Frieberg

## PLEASE NOTE

The school nurse email address is:  
[schoolnurses2020@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:schoolnurses2020@newcovenantschools.org)



*Kindergarteners celebrate 100 days of kindergarten. This is how they might look in about the year 2115.*

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to-month as more and more words are retained - and spelled correctly – by students. In upper grades, students prepare for exams, which require them to apply skills learned in early grades to the content learned in their current courses. They both measure and help to ensure long-term consolidation of knowledge.

Each winter, second through ninth graders take time out of their normal routines to complete The Comprehensive Test Program-5th edition (CTP-5), a standardized test of achievement for independent schools. Students in these grades will be “filling in the bubbles” to answer objective questions in verbal and mathematical areas. We chose this particular test because it is specifically designed for use in independent schools, and it offers us the ability to compare our students’ achievement to that of several different groups. The CTP-5 shows us how we stack up against a very large nationwide sample of schools, against a smaller group of high-achieving independent schools, and against schools

squarely in the classical, Christian tradition.

The length and difficulty of the test contributes to its reliability and allow us to accurately assess even our brightest students. The CTP-5 is a stronger test than the California or the Stanford, which we used many years ago, and it gives us a more accurate assessment of what our students have mastered. It also helps the faculty identify weaknesses in our curriculum, should they develop. For students beyond 9th grade, more standardized tests, such as the Classical Learning Test, PSAT and SAT show their success and pave the way for future opportunities.

The data generated by these three kinds of assessments help us to know how we’re doing as a school. Like a football scoreboard, they show us where to make “halftime” adjustments in instruction and pacing to help all students succeed in reaching the goal line.

## QUID NOVI

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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