

Mrs. Fritz's fourth-graders enjoy their Tea With Tumnus treats served in true Narnian style.



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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THE ADVANTAGE OF A CLASSICAL, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by John Heaton, Headmaster

I have often been asked, “How would you summarize the advantages of classical education compared to modern education models?” First, we should make sure we understand what we mean by “advantages.” If by this we imply better college prospects, long-term earning power, or other kinds of goods, we are limiting our thinking. A classical, Christian education distinguishes between education and training. The former considers things like knowledge, virtue, and maturity as valuable in themselves. The latter contemplates skills that help us acquire things that are useful, such as food, money, tools, etc. The vision of a classical, Christian education is that the end “product” is the student himself.

The first and highest goal is to inform a human

being, to bring him to maturity by introducing him to God in Christ, and to awaken in him a love of truth, goodness and beauty. A classical education begins this process with early exposure to language (notably Latin), the memorization of poetry and Scripture, together with a strong presence of math and music. As the curriculum deepens, the student learns to think formally with the discipline of logic, and is required to apply himself to the hard work of learning to write and express himself. All of this takes place before the ninth grade, and, believe me, it’s not easy for teachers or students. A student has to overcome his natural desire to avoid hard work and to apply himself diligently to things that might not come naturally.

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WHAT'S NEW?

MS Food Drive Benefits Area Food Bank

New Covenant’s Middle School recently conducted a food drive in conjunction with the Super Bowl to benefit the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. Students gathered canned goods and other items to participate in this year’s “Souper Bowl” while competing for points among their middle school teams.

Thank you to all the parents and students who donated items to help our community. Congratulations to the blue team for winning the “Souper Bowl”!



H O N O R A R I A



ROONEY AND KNAPTON NOMINATED FOR LYNCHBURG ROTARY ETHICS AWARD



Each year the Lynchburg Rotary Club honors young men and women in their senior year of high school who best exemplify the motto of "Service Above Self" as seen through their faithful stewardship of talents, trustworthy character, and thankful spirit. We are pleased to announce that this year's faculty and staff nominations for the Lynchburg Rotary Ethics Award are **William Rooney** and **Saige Knapton**.

DRAMA AWARD WINNERS



Best actress:
Gioia Calabretta



Best actor:
Declund Stevenson



Panache Award:
Noah Caldwell



Panache Crew Award:
Macy Andrews

SPELLING BEE CHAMP: MICAH XAYAVONG



Micah Xayavong with spelling judge Ms. Martin.

The Middle School held its annual spelling bee last Friday. Congratulations to 8th grade student **Micah Xayavong** for taking first place. He will go on to represent New Covenant Schools in the district spelling bee later this spring.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VISAA STATE SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Eight swimmers qualified for State in a total of 12 different events
- **Madeline Duncan, Caroline Marotta, Skylar McCurley, and Emily Trautman** set School Record in 200 Free Relay
- **Caroline Marotta** set School Record in 100 Breaststroke and finished 8th in the state.
- **Michael Marotta** set School Record in 100 Fly and 100 Breaststroke. Michael also became New Covenant's first All-State honoree with a 3rd place finish in 100 Breaststroke.



Swim team members: (front) Skylar McCurley, Emily Trautman, Madeline Duncan, Caroline Marotta; (back) Will Spruill, Jack Marotta, Declund Stevenson, Michael Marotta, Andrew Rogers.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

CUSTODIAL POSITION

We are still in need of a custodian for the Workman Field House, who cleans and maintains the floors, storage and the Fitness Center. Training is offered and will involve 15 hours per week in the evenings. This position might be perfect for a local college student who wishes to be involved in the athletic world and needs only a part-time job. Please tell your friends or anyone you think might be interested. Contact Facilities Manager **Darren Johnson** at djohnson@newcovenantschools.org to apply.

GENERATIONS DAY

Grandparents and other special guests are invited to join students in class for the morning of **Friday, March 11** for Generations Day. **There will be an 11am dismissal on this day**—a change from the originally scheduled noon dismissal.

HANDS & HEARTS

Hands and Hearts is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 13**. Sponsorship packets will be coming home with the youngest student in each family next week. Please be looking for this information.

SPRING SPORTS

The spring sports season begins on **Monday, February 28** for grades 7-12 and on **Wednesday, March 23** for grades 5-6. A Spring Sports letter was sent via email on **February 7** with sport details and instructions for signing up. You can also view it by clicking this link: <https://ncs-va.client.renweb.com/ftp/ncs-va/newsletter/Spring%20Sports%20Info.docx>.

ART & SCIENCE FAIR

Plan to join us **Friday, March 4** for the Art & Science Fair. Come out and view the artistic endeavors of our students and enjoy watching them compete in various

science challenges. Art viewing will begin at 5:30pm, and science challenges will start around 6:00pm. This is an enjoyable event for the whole family and one not to be missed!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday service will be held on **March 2nd** in the Marie Macdonald chapel at 7:00am. The service will include hymns, prayers and the imposition of ashes. The service will conclude by 7:40am to ensure that you can get to work or get children to school on time. We look forward to seeing you all there for the beginning of the season of Lent.



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	PREVIOUSLY	THIS WEEK
Annual Fund	\$80,000	\$12,034	\$12,201
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$10,383	\$10,383
Foundation <i>(65% state tax credit received with this gift)</i>	\$200,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$432,500 <i>Received</i> \$282,238	\$432,500 \$286,993
Permanent Things Campaign— Stage I and II	\$1,000,000	<i>Chapel</i> \$584,395 <i>Classrooms</i> \$463,600 TOTAL \$1,047,995	<i>Chapel</i> \$584,395 <i>Classrooms</i> \$463,600 TOTAL \$1,047,995



Goals	Given	Total
200@\$100	81	\$8,100
50@\$500	23	\$11,500
15@\$1,000	34	\$34,000
10@\$5,000	8	\$40,000
5@\$10,000	3	\$30,000
2@\$20,000	2	\$40,000
2@\$50,000	2	\$100,000
2@\$100,000	2	\$200,000

GIVING IS EASY

You can find a way to give that fits your financial ability. Using the chart to the left, consider the level at which you could participate. A one-time gift is welcome, but you might consider leveraging a larger gift by structuring it over a three-year period. Gifts of appreciated stock can be easily transferred, and, for qualified individuals, required minimum distributions from IRA's can also be routed to the campaign. Contact **Dayna Renalds** at drenalds@newcovenantschools.org for assistance.

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By high school a student is ready to begin to tackle the greater questions of our human experience, most of which are addressed in the enduring literature of the Western heritage. This is why we read Homer, Moses, St. Paul, Augustine, Dante, and Lewis—they are sources for answers to these great questions. It might be argued that these pursuits are not essential, of course, for making a living. True enough, but this is precisely the point. Now, as in centuries past, a mastery of the liberal arts is widely recognized as the best preparation for work in professional schools, such as those of medicine, law, engineering, or theology, because it contributes to the development of the person who occupies any such vocation. This is why New Covenant Schools is a transformational experience—not a mere collection of options and programs which, while fun or enjoyable, rest below our higher aims. A parent might shop other schools to find “wider options,” but if these essentials of

education are not present, a student is disadvantaged in the longer term.

All of this assumes what David Hicks calls a “normative” approach. Normative education refers to the enduring and prescriptive pattern of truth, which is discernible in the natural order, and which is explicitly revealed in the Holy Scriptures. It is concerned primarily with the question of what ought to be done. It can be contrasted with what we call “descriptive” information, which refers to an educational commitment to information as the result of pure analysis, delinked from value-laden questions. It is concerned primarily with the question of what can be done. When any subject is approached merely descriptively, the strong message sent to the student is that knowledge is value-free, neutral, and fragmented. In short, this is at the root of our differences with modern models of education. We believe that truth is constant and universal, what Francis Shaeffer called “true truth.”

Reality is not something the student constructs for himself; rather, it is an objective “something” outside the student, which he must discover, receive, and negotiate himself against. Almost everything around us—mainstream educational institutions foremost—cultivates an attitude that there is no value in the wisdom of past generations, that culture is not something to be transmitted, but to be criticized or consumed. This difference is one of

Students work on history timelines to gain a full view of the human experience and the role of a sovereign God as its author.

the primary advantages of a classical, Christian education. In our current secular context, a student is not told that knowledge is sourced in a coherent transcendent universal field, much less that it is unified because it comes from the unity of God’s mind. He is encouraged, rather, to view truth as a product of his own self-validation and to see the purpose of knowledge as gaining power over the things we encounter in the world. The advantage of a classical, Christian education, if we are successful in the project, is to transform our children by the renewing of their minds. A truly liberal education pursues this ideal relentlessly.



QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- CLASS OF 2022 • Amy Bonebright
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- Anne Umbarger • Darryl Whitesell
- CLASS OF 2024 • Mike Lovell

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