



Middle schoolers in an epic battle of "Castle" during the MS Fall Festival on November 18.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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THE TIME OF OUR LIVES

by John Heaton, Headmaster

We're coming into that beautiful stretch of the school year, arguably my favorite, in which our students are enjoying the change of season and the coming of a long Christmas holiday. The prospect of Christmas makes the next several weeks of school almost magical. Volunteers have decked our halls and Christmas music for Lessons & Carols drifts from our chapel, band and orchestra rooms.

I teach my chapel students that it's the calendar that regulates many of our deepest emotions. It teaches us what to be excited about. An approaching birthday, a family vacation, even the first day of

school create expectations in our hearts which display in giddiness, excitement, or nervousness. We feel it in the smallest of increments, too. Students admit to me that they look forward to Fridays at school more than Mondays or Tuesdays. Sure. How could it be otherwise?

In the bigger span of time, students also admit that they look forward to Christmas more than they look forward to Easter, which, if you think about it, is a little skewed. While the birth of our Savior is a joyful event, surely his conquest of death by his mighty resurrection should get equal time

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WHAT'S NEW?

Thank You

Our school campus is always beautiful and maintained nicely by **Darren Johnson**, our Facilities Manager, and his custodial staff. However, during the Christmas season an extra effort is made by parent volunteers to beautify the grounds. Students arrived at school this morning and were greeted by the decorations placed in the lobby and throughout the building by **Michelle Richardson** (Reese - 10th, Faith - 7th) and her team of helpers. Thank you for taking time from your schedule to create a festive space for us to enjoy for the next few weeks. It is greatly appreciated.



H O N O R A R I A

A FESTIVAL OF
**NINE
LESSONS &
CAROLS**
PRESENTED BY THE COMBINED BANDS,
ORCHESTRAS AND CHOIRS OF
NEW COVENANT
SCHOOLS
DECEMBER 12, 2022 | 7:00 PM
WAYMAKER.CHURCH

SPORTS ALL-STATE HONORS

Congratulations to our New Covenant athletes who were selected to all-state teams by VISAA, our state athletic association.

FIRST TEAM ALL-STATE



Gia Barlow
Cross Country



Kaden Newsome
Soccer

SECOND TEAM ALL-STATE



Adora Hampton
Volleyball



Jocelyn Walker
Volleyball



Waylon Spiva
Soccer



Jude Vollmer
Soccer

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2023-24 school year is now open and will remain open until **January 15**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early! Go to <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid> to apply. Please note that once you submit an application, you need to check your email often because FACTS may request additional information. Your application is not considered complete until FACTS has all required tax documents.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Join us for our annual service of Lessons & Carols on **Monday, December 12 at 7:00pm** at Waymaker Church. A combined School of Rhetoric band, orchestra and choir will be performing with participation from 7th & 8th grade students. All are welcome! Please note that there has been a change in venue. The service will now be at Waymaker Church and not Hyland Heights Baptist Church as previously announced.

DELAYED START TIME

New Covenant Schools will open on **December 13 at 9:00am**. *Students should arrive no earlier than 8:30am.*

5TH AND 6TH GRADE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join the 5th & 6th grade orchestra, band, and chorus classes on **December 13 at 11:00am** in the Marie Macdonald Chapel for the 5th & 6th grade Middle School Christmas Concert.

TEACHERS' FAVORITES

Each year faculty and staff fill out a favorites sheet listing interests, hobbies, favorite foods, etc. If you would like a copy of a teacher's favorites list, please email olson@newcovenantsschools.org or stop by the lobby desk and ask to see the favorites book.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The end of the 2nd quarter and the beginning of Christmas Break is on **Friday, December 16**. We will have a **11:00 dismissal on the 16th** and school will break for Christmas through **Tuesday, January 3** with students returning on **Wednesday, January 4**.

HOMECOMING

Mark your calendars for **January 6** as we welcome back our alums to campus. Watch for more details to come.

LUNCH ORDERING

This **Friday, December 2** you can begin ordering your student's January lunches. Set a reminder to get that done so you



YEARBOOK: CALL FOR PHOTOS

The yearbook team needs photos for our "Summer 2022 Vacations" section. If you have photos of your family on vacation last summer that you'd be willing to share for possible inclusion in the yearbook, please email them—with photo info—to yearbook advisor **Mark Hernandez** at mhernandez@newcovenantsschools.org. Or upload to hjshare.com/eShare. Use code: NCS1991.

can check one thing off your "To-Do" list during this busy season! The ordering window will be open through **Friday, December 16**.



SOR Houses faced off in a flag football competition during the annual Turkey Bowl.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Permanent Things Campaign/Annual Fund	\$100,000	\$11,625
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$20,527
Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$313,200 <i>Received</i> \$78,692

GIVING IS EASY

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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and attention. (Actually, the calendar does this by giving Christmas twelve days, while Easter gets forty!)

Most Christians, regardless of their particular tradition, celebrate Christmas and Easter. Many are unaware, however, that these two great holidays are cherry-picked from a larger tradition that marks time over the span of Jesus' whole life, not just his birth and resurrection. There is an entire calendar which marks the major events of his life, through which God's purpose in history is expounded in every annual cycle of time. This is, in fact, what history is—a record of what God does in time—and the most consequential action of history is the life of our Lord.

Before the coming of Jesus, the people of God also had a calendar. It began with Passover, a seven-day feast which marked the Exodus out of Egypt. Seven weeks later was Pentecost, which commemorated the formation of the tribes into an identifiable people under law. Finally, counting off seven months, the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles celebrated the expansion of that people to include the whole world. There's much more to it, and it's complicated to be sure, but we should acknowledge one notable feature. The entire Old Testament calendar is regulated by the moon; it is a *lunar* calendar, which is to say, liturgically speaking, that the Old Testament takes place at night.

Anticipating the Messiah, however, the prophet would say, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Near the end of our Old Testament Scriptures, Malachi declared that the "sun of righteousness would rise, with healing



in his wings." The spectacular advent of Jesus led the Church to rebuild the calendar, with an orientation not around the moon, but around the sun—the *Son*. History is now the story of eternal day, or, to reduce all of history to one statement, there was evening and there was morning.

So how does this work for us? Yesterday was the first Sunday in Advent (from the Latin, *to the coming!*). There are always four Sundays in this run-up to Christmas. During this month, we are invited to place ourselves in that space which was occupied by our forebears before Christ was born. It's hard for us to do this and requires some spiritual imagination. What was life like before Christ? What was it like to be a faithful Jew waiting for the long-expected Messiah? Since we know the whole story and how it ends, we can situate ourselves in that space only to a limited extent.

The message of Advent, however, is bigger. While we live "downstream" from the life of Jesus, we still occupy an historical space in which we, too, experience unfulfilled expectation. Now we await his second coming, his return in glory at which all of God's purposes in history will be brought to consummation. If that reality seems like a fairy tale, or something you cannot really imagine or comprehend, then you really *can* identify

with those who lived before the advent of Jesus. After all, the circumstances of his first coming were equally unimaginable to them.

For all of us in the school community, faculty, parents, and students alike, the calendar directs our attention to the ongoing formation of virtue, of preparedness, wakefulness, and expectation.

As it happens, the Church calendar neatly overlaps most of the academic year. At New Covenant we take advantage of that and attend devotionally to its feasts and festivals with your children. In doing so we show them how to enjoy the time of our lives.



QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster
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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