



Second graders having a tea party as part of Colonial Day activities last Friday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

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## GETTING INTO THE GREAT CONVERSATION

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Several members of our faculty and I are working on a project we call Defending the Tradition. It's an effort to enable our students, parents, faculty, and wider community to gain more purchase on classical education and the cultural inheritance that belongs to us and to our children. Since many of us are not products of a classical, Christian education, we can often feel like outsiders, as though those smart administrators and teachers over there at New Covenant know the inside deal and have the *real* scoop. Please—let's stop that right now. Let me put your mind at ease with a different story.

When I was 25 and newly married, my wife and I discovered a CD of various cello recordings. One of the pieces was a berceuse, French for lullaby, from Benjamin Godard's opera, *Jocelyn*, written for the cello in 1888. I was captivated by it, and one day, I told myself, I would learn to play it. Mind you, I had never touched a cello.

Twenty-five more years later, when I turned 50, I made a short assessment of things I wanted to do in life but had not tried. One of those was learning to play the cello. No one in my family played a stringed instrument, and the extent of my musical training,

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## WHAT'S NEW?

### School Gifted a New Digital Piano

The music department received a new digital piano with a generous gift from a friend of the school. The school owns several digital instruments, but all of them were aging, and two were irreparably malfunctioning. **Sandra van Burk**, who also funded the Gryphon Garden, provided the funds necessary to make this purchase. The piano has high functionality and a full keyboard of 88 keys, and is portable. While it makes its home in the chapel where the SOR Choir rehearses, it can easily be moved to other rooms. We thank Mrs. van Burk for her generous and ongoing support of New Covenant Schools.



# H O N O R A R I A

## TAN AND MORSE EARN TOP MATH COMPETITION SCORES



Enoch Tan



Mary Glenn Morse

On November 16, 28 School of Rhetoric students traveled to Liberty University to compete with area public and private schools in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). The AMC 10 and AMC 12 tests from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), proctored nationwide, are the first in a series of competitions which form the U.S. Math Olympiad team. While no one qualified for the next level of competition, all of our students deserve to be commended for their great results on very difficult tests. A special congratulations to **Enoch Tan** and **Mary Glenn Morse**. For the greater Lynchburg area, Enoch had the highest score on the AMC 10 test and Mary Glenn earned one of the top three scores on the AMC 12 test.

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Permanent Things Campaign/Annual Fund	\$100,000	\$348,325
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$25,324
Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$467,070 <i>Received</i> \$457,598

## GIVING IS EASY

Thank you to all who have given so generously to New Covenant Schools. Your gifts are appreciated and will be used to further the mission of our school. Donations may be given throughout the year through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

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oddly enough, was playing the accordion in grade school. (That's a story for another day). Joe Nigro, one of the Commonwealth's most accomplished violists and the orchestra director at New Covenant, got me a loaner instrument and gave me some rudimentary lessons. I got going with Suzuki books I and II and then got distracted building more stuff at New Covenant. I put the cello down for a couple of years, all the while resenting myself for the false start.

Soon enough, Teresa Angell joined our staff as a cello coach, and later as the school nurse (yes, she is talented). I told her my story about forsaking the cello, and she agreed to take me on as a student. Today, ten years later, I can sight read much in my hymnal, and I am beginning to play minuets from Bach. Most importantly, she taught me how to play Godard's *Berceuse*.

Now don't get me wrong. I am *not* a cellist. I will never be able to look at a piece of music and see what Joe or Teresa sees on the page. To them, musical notation is like reading English; it's a language in which they are fluent. For me, it's black ink on a page, and when I play, it's more often like a child painting by number. When Teresa touches her cello, it awakens, it breathes, it responds and talks to her. I have a new cello now, and though I play most mornings in my office at 6:30 before anyone gets to school, my cello can still remain soundly asleep in my arms.

What does this have to do with you and the classical, Christian tradition? Simply this: you may not be familiar with all of the great books or know much about truth, goodness, and beauty. If you're honest, you might even admit that you don't feel confident telling your friends what is distinctive about your child's school. Face it—you're not a classicist any more than I am a cellist.



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## PERMANENT THINGS

*By John Heaton*

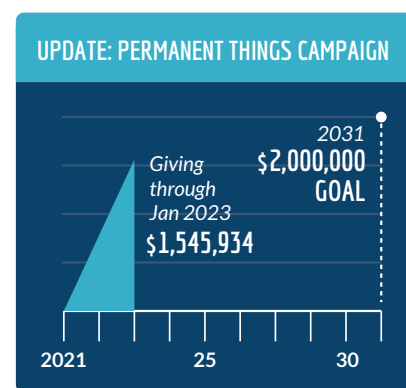
As we have turned the corner in the new year, we have seen ongoing and substantial support for the Permanent Things Campaign. If the goals of the campaign have gotten blurry in your mind, here is a short recap. In the fall of 2021 we announced to our community that the school's Board of Directors was set on course to ensure our future—to make permanent all of the progress that had been made in the previous 30 years. This would entail raising \$2,000,000.

The effort would begin with the expansion of the chapel so that our students could worship together in their various divisions, grammar, middle and high school. The chapel represents the faith that lies at the core of our community, and makes visible our commitment to the permanent things of life. Further, our efforts were aimed at securing all the space necessary to accommodate current academic programming. That required two new classrooms which had long been in our plans to add on the south side of the Workman Field House. This entailed moving the recreational activities that took place in that area to what we call 'the bottom,' adding an outdoor expansion to the Workman-Hall Fitness Center. Finally, our ultimate goal was to create a pathway to retire all remaining debt and to ensure that the school maintained adequate cash reserves to sustain it through good and bad economic climates. Quite simply, the vision of the campaign has been to secure the school for generations to come.

As we introduced the community to this ambitious goal in the fall of 2021, the chapel project was nearly completely funded. Not only were we grateful, but we were humbled when more and more folks continued to give to it, surpassing the necessary funds and providing the added beauty of stained glass windows, an organ and so much more. From there we plunged into the second phase of the campaign, and you, our parents and friends, continued to respond willingly and generously. In a few short months the funds necessary to completely underwrite those two classrooms were provided, and students occupied their new rooms in October 2022.

We were only one year into a ten-year plan, but two of the projects were complete. The graphic to the right shows a timeline of the campaign, and the amount of money that has been offered by our community. Our benefactors—small and great—have united behind the project. The momentum of giving continued through the end of the year. The Annual Fund, normally dedicated to small projects around the campus, was rolled into the campaign, and enjoyed support of \$348,325. As a result, after just a year and half of sharing our vision, we are already taking aim at complete debt retirement. At the same time, our friends continued to support the work of the New Covenant Schools Foundation, which provides need-based scholarships for students who qualify. Gifts to the Foundation totaled \$457,598.

As we have witnessed your generosity we say "Thank you" to all who have given. We accept your generosity with gratitude and with a renewed commitment to the stewardship of your gifts so that New Covenant may continue to offer classical, Christian education to students for generations to come.



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But you don't need to be. Just as you can be a faithful Christian without being a theologian, you can benefit from what we call the "Great Conversation." It's not about being a classics major. It's about participating in the journey. Truth be told, many of our faculty have felt just as you do, but together we're on a path to learn something today that we did not know yesterday, to strengthen our own grip on our common project. Most of all, we want to know more about the big questions of life.

Let's make it more personal because it's likely that you've already entered the Great Conversation. Did you ever ask yourself a question like, "Where did I come from?" or "Why am I here?" or "Who am I and what is my purpose in life?" Have you ever wondered why a piece of music made you cry or why the ocean or the starry sky made you feel diminished and ennobled at the same time? Sure you have, and so you have already

experienced four or five big questions that have been discussed in the Great Conversation. Even children can ask these questions, and it follows that the best school for them would not only teach them to read, write and reckon, it should boldly entertain the great questions that they naturally have. The classical tradition is nothing more than a very long catalog of people answering these questions.

Classical education, simply put, is a curriculum built on the books that contain the best of what has been thought and said on these and many more such questions. Sometimes the questions are asked and answered in stories, sometimes in poetry, sometimes in music or art, often in film, and certainly in the Scriptures.

Going forward you'll see more articles in the Quid Novi from the Defending the Tradition project. They are being offered as a way of entering into what's been called "The Great Conversation," to contribute to your own

appreciation for the things that lie at the foundation of our school.

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2023 • Nancy Hall • Kristin Hampton • Sam Mizener • Tom Rogers  
Anne Umbarger • Darryl Whitesell • Class of 2024 • Mike Lovell • Class of 2025 • Neil Bohnert • Leslie Moeller • Bob Price  
Leland Seckman • Dan Vollmer

### EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster  
Eric Parker—School Warden

### 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



# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT CONTRACT

In order to simplify reenrollment, New Covenant uses a Continuous Enrollment Contract for students, allowing them to automatically be enrolled each year until graduation without having to sign a contract. PARENTS WILL NOT BE ASKED TO REENROLL FOR NEXT YEAR. The opt-out deadline for enrollment for the 2023-24 school year is February 1, 2023. The Continuous Enrollment Fee of \$150 will be charged to your account on that date if you do not opt out. Please contact Linda Hackenbracht at [lhackenbracht@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lhackenbracht@newcovenantschools.org) if your plans for next school year have changed.

### WINTER BREAK

School will be closed for Winter Break from Thursday, February 9 through Tuesday, February 14. Students return on Wednesday, February 15.

### SCHOOL CLOSING OR DELAY

All information regarding schoolwide closings or delays related to weather will be communicated via email, ABC News 13, and a push notification through the app. If you are unable to get to school because of unplowed roads, your child's absence will be excused. Please note that our families and faculty are spread out over several counties; therefore our

decision to delay or cancel may be based on conditions different from those you see outside your own home.

### MOMS IN PRAYER

All moms and grandmothers are invited to join us in this new year as we pray for our children, teachers, administration and the needs of our school community. We meet Wednesdays from 2-3pm in the Marie Macdonald Chapel.

### ART AND SCIENCE FAIR

Submissions for Art Fair are now being accepted through February 8. Students in K-grade 12 grade may submit two pieces of art in painting, mixed media, sculpture, photography, and/or film. Students' work in grades 4-12 will be in the judged art show. Artwork must be unframed and can be directly submitted to Mr. Dunaway. Parents who would like to volunteer to mat and hang work should contact Michael Dunaway and [mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org). For more details see the flyer in the January 9 QUID NOVI.

### THE ANNUAL COTILLION AND JUNIOR RING CEREMONY

This Saturday, January 28 the School of Rhetoric will host the annual Cotillion and the Junior Ring Ceremony at 7pm at Tresca on 8th. The address is 724 Commerce St., Lynchburg, VA 24504.



## BASKETBALL SCORES

### Tuesday, January 17

#### VARSITY WOMEN

Roanoke Catholic .....	51
New Covenant .....	33

#### JV BOYS

Lynchburg Patriots .....	36
New Covenant .....	44

#### VARSITY MEN

Lynchburg Patriots .....	53
New Covenant .....	65

### Thursday, January 19

#### JV BOYS

Smith Mountain Lake .....	31
New Covenant .....	37

#### VARSITY MEN

Smith Mountain Lake .....	42
New Covenant .....	69

#### VARSITY WOMEN

New Covenant .....	33
Smith Mountain Lake .....	42

### Friday, January 20

#### JV BOYS

Veritas .....	36
New Covenant .....	41

#### VARSITY WOMEN

Veritas .....	23
New Covenant .....	38

#### VARSITY MEN

Veritas .....	40
New Covenant .....	50



Middle School boys show off the shelter they built at Mr. Heaton's Bold Branch Farm as part of the MS boys' retreat day on Friday, January 13.



# HONORS FOR 2ND QUARTER 2022-2023

## SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

### THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

#### *Summa cum laude*

Will Kittrell, 12	Kaden Newsome, 12	Jenna Hackenbracht, 12	Beau Brady, 11
Caleb McCormick, 11	Brielle Walker, 11	Noah Caldwell, 11	Nicole Clark, 11
Virginia Morse, 11	Ally Horne, 11	Saria Hostetler, 11	Olivia Kidd, 11
Diego Leal, 11	Mary Glenn Morse, 11	Noah McCormick, 10	James Brophy, 10
John Brophy, 10	Corey Hackenbracht, 10	Cora Helm, 10	Ellie Jacobs, 10
Reese Murphy, 10	Melia Leitner, 10	Jenna Ng, 10	Declund Stevenson, 10
Brey Welch, 10	Mary Kate Place, 10	Walt Gill, 9	Grace Brady, 9
Joy Basten, 9	Ashe Smith, 9		

### THE DEAN'S LIST

#### *Magna cum laude*

Waylon Spiva, 12	Van Curran, 12	Jael Brenning, 12	Lydia Craven, 12
Nate Kirshberger, 12	Adora Hampton, 11	Abby Rose, 11	Andrew Rogers, 11
Sarah Robert, 11	Claire Copenhaver, 11	Charlotte Seay, 11	Lizzie Bryant, 10
Elizabeth Deneen, 10	John Scruggs, 10	Jocelyn Walker, 10	Graham Kowalski, 10
Abby Burton, 10	Jack Duncan, 10	Serah Jones, 10	Alicia Kenny, 9
Charlotte Morse, 9	Eva Andrade, 9	Rosa East, 9	Olivia Hostetler, 9
Ryleigh, Taylor, 9	Gia Barlow, 9	Enoch Tan, 9	Wyatt Renalds, 9
Andre Frenchik, 9	Graden Bolton, 9	Breezy Knight, 9	

#### *Cum laude*

Jackson Taylor, 12	Jude Vollmer, 12	Rebekah Bryant, 12	Abigail Place, 12
Elijah Higey, 12	Elizabeth Matney, 12	Johnathan Matney, 12	Dylan Abaidoo, 12
Colin Mather, 11	Micah Cortez, 11	Kate McCurley, 11	Emma Fritz, 10
Lucas Gorman, 10	Grace Hendricksen, 10	Ella Dudley, 9	Emma Kate Lovell, 9
Micah Xayavong, 9	Sarah McCurley, 9	Alara Gezen, 9	Nick Gieszczykiewicz, 9
Luke Cordes, 9	Stone Haibach, 9	Skye Heap, 9	

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### *Summa cum laude*

Emma Haupricht, 8	Joel Ng, 8	Shilo Binder, 8	Charlotte McCarty, 8
Luke Hottle, 8	Joseph Robert, 8	Avery Harrison, 8	Ian Gill, 8
Olivia Fries, 8	Elora Williams, 8	John Sorenson, 7	Peter Brophy, 7
Naomi Rigg, 7	Christian Henson, 7	Elena Andrade, 7	Jojo Deyo, 7

#### *Magna cum laude*

Ruby Helm, 8	Michael Seckman, 8	Judah Weber, 8	Ignatius Knebel, 8
Charlotte Libbey, 8	Hannah Edwards, 8	Charis Durand, 7	Reese Mahle, 7
Ava Boettger, 7	Joseph Lee, 7	Lizzie Miller, 7	Charlie Kershaw, 7
Elle Vollmer, 7	Britton Basten, 7	Xander Arbaugh-Turner, 7	Kendall Morrell, 7

#### *Cum laude*

Alex Fuhr, 8	Embry Carlton, 8	John-Paul Gauger, 8	Jonah Chernov, 8
Molly Hendricksen, 8	Journey Lancaster, 8	Katie Freerksen, 8	Nicholas Richmond, 8
Lucy Kirshberger, 7	Alaina Hilton, 7	Emma Christian, 7	Wyatt Copenhaver, 7