



Third graders hosted the student body in their classrooms for Egyptian Day activities on January 27.

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 *in-form* 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—and 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.

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

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H O N O R A R I A



A play by Thornton Wilder

OUR TOWN

Friday, February 24 – 7pm
Saturday, February 25 – 7pm
Friday, March 3 – 7pm
Saturday, March 4 – 7pm

Moomaw Center
Adults \$15 | Students \$10



*Please call
847-8313
to reserve
your seats.*



Adora Hampton
(second from right)

HAMPTON PERFORMS IN SPEAKING COMPETITION

Adora Hampton participated in the 40th annual English Speaking Union Shakespeare competition this past Saturday. The competition was held on the Blackfriars Playhouse stage in Staunton. Adora represented New Covenant well and had an excellent performance.

DURAND WINS SPELLING BEE

Charis Durand (7th) spelled the word “obtrusive” to win the Spelling Bee competition held in the Moomaw Center today. **Charlotte McCarty** (8th) was named bee alternate and rounded out a final five consisting also of **Luke Hottle** (8th), **Joel Ng** (8th) and **Michael Seckman** (8th). Charis will go on to represent New Covenant Schools in the Lynchburg spelling bee on March 25 at Dunbar Middle School.



Charis Durand (left), winner of the Spelling Bee, with runner-up **Charlotte McCarty** and **Ms. Martin**, the Spelling Bee judge.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Permanent Things Campaign/Annual Fund	\$100,000	\$351,025
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$24,324
Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$497,570 Received \$481,093

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.

ETCETERA

EVERYONE

WINTER BREAK

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

ART AND SCIENCE FAIR

Submissions for the Art Fair are due this **Wednesday, February 8**. Students in grades K-12 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. The Art and Science fair will take place on **Monday, February 27**. Parents who would like to mat and hang work should contact **Michael Dunaway** at mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org. For more details see the flyer in the **January 9 QUID NOVI**.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Third quarter progress reports will be emailed to parents on **Wednesday, February 8**.

PANACHE PRESENTS

The School of Rhetoric is proud to present *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder on **February 24 & 25** and **March 3 & 4** at **7pm** in the Moomaw Center. Please call (434) 847-8313 to reserve your seats. Adult tickets are \$15 and student tickets are \$10.

LUNCH ORDERING

March lunch ordering is now open with a deadline of **February 17**. Since Winter Break falls during the ordering window be sure to plan accordingly so as not to miss the deadline! Baked potatoes will be featured again on Tuesdays in March. If you have any questions, please contact **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

VALENTINE'S DAY FREE DRESS

Although St. Valentine's Day falls during Winter Break, students and faculty/staff are invited to celebrate by wearing a red, white and/or pink shirt with jeans or regular uniform bottoms this **Wednesday, February 8**. As always, shoes must be closed-toe and jeans must be free of rips and tears. This free dress day corresponds with the Middle School Soup-er Bowl free dress day, and middle school students may choose the one in which they would like to participate.

SAVE THE DATE FOR HANDS & HEARTS

Our schoolwide service day will be **Wednesday, April 19**. Parents are welcome to work alongside students completing tasks for area nonprofit groups. Watch for more information in the next few weeks.



BASKETBALL SCORES

Monday, January 30

MS BOYS

SWVA	33
New Covenant	29

MS GIRLS

SWVA	30
New Covenant	6

Tuesday, January 31

JV BOYS

Hargrave	55
New Covenant	40

VARSITY MEN

Hargrave	71
New Covenant	52

Thursday, February 2

VARSITY WOMEN

New Covenant	29
Lynchburg Patriots	24

JV BOYS

North Cross	38
New Covenant	34

VARSITY MEN

North Cross	54
New Covenant	52

Friday, February 3

VARSITY WOMEN

New Covenant	26
North Cross	34

JV BOYS

Timberlake	19
New Covenant	53

VARSITY MEN

Timberlake	32
New Covenant	52





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;

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

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 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, and others, 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

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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