



The Panache Playmakers in scenes from *Our Town* performed on Friday and Saturday night.



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

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## EXPERIENCING THE TRADITION

by Katie Sakai, Director of Alumni Affairs

New Covenant is currently producing a series of essays for parents and readers of QUID NOVI as part of a larger project we call *Defending the Tradition*. The following is the second article in this effort, and is an autobiographical account of the experience of one of our own faculty members. The entire series will be published in a separate publication before the end of the current school year.

I remember the day that classical education clicked for me. It was a cloudy Tuesday afternoon. I, along with ten of my fellow 14-year-old students sat around plastic tables in a horseshoe formation, prepared to discuss ideas and their consequences. Similar to the

Harkness discussions at New Covenant, my class engaged in what we termed “Socratic dialogue.” Armed with rich reading material from great authors, historians, and philosophers, we challenged one another with questions and insights.

In our conversation about justice and freedom, our class began to weave together ideas from all different disciplines. We started with examples from history but quickly turned to philosophy when we realized that each pivotal event in history that we had studied could be traced back to a philosophical idea originating centuries earlier. Deeper questions

*continued on p.4*

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Men's and Women's Basketball Teams to VISAA Tournament

Congratulations to our varsity basketball teams on their successful seasons this year. Their efforts have earned both groups a seat in the Virginia Independent Schools Athletics Association (VISAA) Tournament. The Lady Gryphons, coached by **Buck Walker**, earned the #10 seed in Division III and will play at #7 Grace Christian in Staunton tomorrow afternoon at 6:00pm. Our men, coached by **Matt Klein**, earned #4 seed in Division IV and a bye in the first round. They will play the winner of #5 Williamsburg Christian and #12 Blessed Sacrament Huguenot on Wednesday at New Covenant at 6:00pm. There will be an admission cost of \$5 for those ages 12 and over. School of Rhetoric students will be admitted at no charge. Let's come out and pack the stands for our team on Wednesday evening. Go Gryphons!



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A

## FOURTH GRADERS TAKE AN ENCHANTED TRIP TO NARNIA



## NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS HANDS & HEARTS

It's that time again! Hands & Hearts sponsorship packets come home today with the youngest child in your family. Please complete the information and return completed letters to your child's teacher or the office by **Friday, March 10**. Each returned letter earns one ticket to place in our prize buckets. The list of items which can be won include a Pandora necklace, \$100 Sheets Z-Card, Raising Cane's gift basket, Apple Air Tag, and much more. Funds raised in this year's efforts will go towards installing permanent theater lighting in the Moomaw Center. Thank you for supporting this project.



## FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Permanent Things Campaign/Annual Fund	\$100,000	\$351,050
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$25,324
Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$497,570 Received \$481,093
Hands & Hearts	\$50,000	\$550

## 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.



# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### ART & SCIENCE FAIR

Please join us **tonight** 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 at 5:30pm, and science challenges will start at 6:00pm. A hotdog combo meal will be available to purchase for \$5 with all proceeds supporting the Cuirim House Mission Team. This is an enjoyable event for the whole family and one not to be missed!

### PANACHE PRESENTS

The School of Rhetoric is proud to present *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder on **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.

### WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS

Winter athletic awards will be awarded **Wednesday, March 8 at 12:40pm** in the Workman Field House. Families are welcome to attend.

### SPRING BREAK

Students will have a **12:00pm** dismissal on **Friday, March 10** and school will be closed for Spring Break **March 13-17**. Students return on **Monday, March 20**. Enjoy the break!

### LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found bins are purged at the end of each quarter. Be sure to check for any lost items before **Wednesday, March 22**.

### JEANS AND GREENS DAY

Although St. Patrick's Day falls during Spring Break, students and faculty/staff are invited to celebrate **Thursday, March 9** by wearing a green shirt with jeans or regular uniform bottoms. (As always, shoes must be closed-toe shoes and jeans must be free of rips and tears.)

### AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION EXAMS

The deadline for seniors to register to take the AP Literature/Composition exam is **Thursday, March 9**. Instructions for registration were given to each senior by **Mrs. Baker**. Please contact her or **Mrs. Mitchell** if you have any questions about the exam or have difficulty in the registration process.

### NATIONAL LATIN EXAMS

All students enrolled in Latin classes in grades 7-12 will be sitting for National Latin Exams this **Wednesday, March 1 through Friday, March 3**. Teachers will be preparing students for the format of the exams, but no extra study is required. The exams range from introductory to advanced levels, according to each student's Latin class. Results from the exams will be announced later in the spring, with recognition and awards given to students who place above the national average for their level.

### APRIL LUNCH ORDERING

Lunch ordering for April begins **Friday, March 3** and ends on **Monday, March 20** when school resumes after Spring Break. The month features the regular menu items, as well as a couple of perennial favorites—handcrafted burgers and the Gryphon Griddler, our version of a

pancake and sausage breakfast sandwich. For those who subscribe to the school milk plan, a charge of \$35 for the 4th and final quarter of the year will be posted to lunch accounts after Spring Break.

### GENERATIONS DAY

Generations Day will be held on **Friday, March 24**. Grandparents and other special guests are invited to join students in class for the morning as well as enjoy light refreshments and coffee in the library. **There will be an 11am dismissal on this day.**

### LADIES' EVENT

On the evening of **Friday, April 21**, the Moms in Prayer group will be holding a social gathering for ladies in our school community. Mothers and grandmothers, save the date! More details will follow.

### ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Does your student play in an athletic sport here at New Covenant? All games are posted at <https://newcovenantathletics.org/main/calendar/> or on the app under Athletics>Events. These are your most up-to-date sources for game times and team schedules. You can even subscribe to your student's team calendar. To subscribe on your smartphone, click Subscribe on the website. Highlight the displayed URL, copy, and paste into your preferred calendar application. (Note that you do need to create an account and sign in prior to subscribing.) In the app you can filter which team you want to see by hitting the filter icon in the top right-hand corner.



naturally emerged in our conversation. *What are the consequences of ideas? Where is true freedom found?* In our discussion of philosophies, we delved into logic and theology in our search for truth. *How could we determine what was just without first determining the standard by which to measure it?* Lightbulb moment after lightbulb moment illuminated a path of parallel themes in science, math, and literature. Literary characters and their authors wrestled with the same questions: *What does it mean to be human? Does humanity imply intrinsic value?* The patterns did not stop there. We discovered that the seemingly separate political and social issues of our time were merely branches of the same tree.

If one had traced the line of our conversation with red string, pinning together the snapshots of rich thought from all the different disciplines we investigated, our classroom might have looked much like a detective's evidence board, with a complex web of related ideas. That string, tying together the ideas of philosophers, historical figures, writers, and great minds over differing centuries, cultures, and regimes, traced the outline of a conversation that continues to this day.

On that cloudy Tuesday afternoon, sitting around plastic tables, we had entered The Great Conversation: a dialogue among thinkers spanning thousands of years, building upon one another's ideas and defending their views as they sought to answer life's questions. These questions, the *enduring questions*, examine the fundamental ideas common to the human experience. *What are the criteria for truth? Are justice and equality the same or different? What is identity? How does duty relate to other human desires like pleasure and happiness?* Everything we study, past or present; every social issue we debate; every meaningful piece of art



or music; and everything that has ever given us joy or pain can be traced back to an enduring question.

As our students head out into the world, they will be continually faced with questions of identity, of justice, and of God. Each will choose his or her own path. In an age where we are bombarded with thousands of messages daily, both subliminal and overt, it is crucial that we equip our students with the ability to discern, to think critically, and to grapple with the enduring questions now. Providing students with a space to wrestle with these questions in a healthy and productive way in the classroom allows them to build for themselves a firm foundation upon which they can stand when they move on. This image of a graduate standing securely amidst the tossing waves of the ever-changing culture should compel us to champion the classical, Christian tradition. We must advance our mission to build up graduates who love goodness, seek out truth, and engage in the world around them with wisdom.

*Classical education is a great tradition of discussions of ideas from great authors, historians, and philosophers as students and teachers challenge one another with questions and insights.*

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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