



Jacob Neeley and other third graders serving with Hands & Hearts at Lynchburg Grows last week.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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HANDS & HEARTS – A CELEBRATION OF THE NEW COVENANT SPIRIT

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Last week hundreds of students and parents spread out around Lynchburg at various venues for a day of service in our annual Hands & Hearts service project. Each year this event is held in the spring and enjoys the support of hundreds of parent volunteers who work with students as drivers, chaperones, snack providers and in many other essential roles. The results are often transformative, when hundreds of hands unite together to pick up trash, spread mulch, pressure-wash, paint walls and handrails, split wood, wash windows, build handicap

ramps and clean out storage rooms. These were just some of the jobs our students were able to accomplish in five or six hours of sustained work.

Together the New Covenant community made significant contributions to the Salvation Army, Rush Homes, The ARC of Virginia, Miller Home for Girls, Monacan Indian Nation, HumanKind, Lynchburg Grows, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah and the food pantry at Compassion Church. Students also solicit sponsorships from their family and friends which support the projects. When we discuss

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WHAT'S NEW?

Free Firewood



Last week's Hands & Hearts projects included the removal of two large oak trees that had been cut down by AEP at the Miller Home for Girls in Lynchburg. The huge woodpile consisted of logs that had lain in heaps for about two years. With two wood splitters and a tractor, our team of students was able to split most of the massive logs into useable firewood, and with large trailers, was able to haul and stack it at New Covenant behind the Gryphon Garden. The firewood is free for the taking for anyone willing to pick it up. Take as little or as much as you like!



H O N O R A R I A

A PLACE IN THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG

Each year the Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program receives hundreds of applications from U.S. students interested in a full immersion cross-cultural exchange experience in Germany. Now in its 40th year, the exchange program offers competitive full scholarships to distinguished students whose flexibility, intellectual curiosity, and cross-cultural aptitude qualify them for the nine-month overseas intensive. The position is limited to students committed to representing the U.S. with distinction. After a year-long application cycle, **Mary Kate Place** has secured the highly sought position and will embark on her next political adventure in August 2023. She will spend her entire junior year abroad, returning as a senior in 2024.



THIS WEEK IS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2023!



To celebrate our library this year, Grammar School students will be invited to create a “favorite books” window display. We will have a fun, interactive display for Middle School students to play, and School of Rhetoric students will participate in Poem in Your Pocket Day. As a special treat we have invited **Mrs. Patterson** to come and read her favorite childhood picture book to our Grammar School students.

You can support our library by participating in the rebate program at Givens Little Dickens. Tell the clerk at checkout that your child attends New Covenant Schools, and they will record the sale. At the end of the year, we'll receive a gift certificate for 3% of all sales.

We look forward to an exciting week!

“First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.”
(www.ala.org)

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Hands & Hearts	\$50,000	\$54,805

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.



SOR CONCERT CHOIR WINS FIRST PLACE

Thirty-one members of the SOR Concert Choir traveled to Williamsburg on Friday, April 21 to participate in the Music in the Parks competition at Busch Gardens.

Schools from across the states of New York, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia were represented. Our choir competed in the Mixed Choir, Division IA and won first place in that division! The students competed in the morning and then spent the afternoon enjoying the park. It was an awesome day!

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

FIELD DAY

Our annual Field Day will be held on **Friday, May 26**. This event is for our Grammar School students in grades K-4. Parent volunteers are needed to make this fun day possible! If you would like to participate as a parent volunteer, please sign up via Signup Genius at this link: bit.ly/NCS_FieldDay. If your student in grades K-4 will NOT be attending, please email **Eliza Olson** at eolson@newcovenantschools.org. Knowing who will or will not be here helps us when forming teams.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY

The Middle School is proud to present *Wilde Tales: The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde* on **April 28 & 29 at 7pm** in the Moomaw Center. Please call (434) 847-8313 to reserve your seats. Adult tickets are \$10 and student tickets are \$7.

SPIRIT DAY

This Friday students are invited to participate in Blue & White Spirit Day. Students can wear a blue and/or white top with either uniform bottoms or jeans. As always, only closed-toed shoes are allowed.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents will receive an email with a link to view student progress reports this **Wednesday, April 26**.



MAY BREATHER

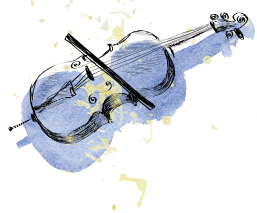
There will be no school on **Friday, May 5**.
Enjoy the breather!

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS SUMMER CAMPS

STRINGS CAMP

Joe Nigro and **Teresa Angell** will lead two weeks of Strings Camp for rising 4th-through 12th-grade students. The camps will run Monday through Friday, **June 12 - 16** and **June 19 - 23**, 9am - 12pm. Students may attend one or both weeks. The cost is \$125 per week and payment should be made by check to "James Chambers Players." Please contact Joe Nigro at jnigro@newcovenantschools.org if you have any questions regarding the camp.

bit.ly/NCS_StringsCamp



STAYFIT CAMP

Our annual StayFit Camp will be offered in two sessions this year for rising 1st-7th-grade New Covenant students. The first session will be held **June 19 - 29**. The second session will be held **July 10 - July 20**. The camp runs Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The cost is \$125 for one session for the first child and \$25 for each additional sibling. If you sign your students up for both sessions, the cost is \$200 for the first child and \$50 for each additional sibling. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account that must be paid by **June 15, 2023**. The deadline to sign up is **Friday, May 26**.

bit.ly/NCS_StayFit_Camp



AMERICAN GIRL CAMP

Rising 2nd - 5th-grade New Covenant girls, we would love to have you join us **Monday - Friday, June 12 - 16** from 9am - 1pm for our annual American Girl Camp! This year's doll is Maryellen Larkin. We will go back to the times of poodle skirts and saddle shoes as we explore post-WWII American culture through dancing, cooking and crafts. The cost is \$200 per student. You will be invoiced through your FACTS account and the fee must be paid by **June 15, 2023**. Camp registration ends on **May 26**, and the camp is limited to 15 girls. If you have any questions, please contact **Eliza Olson** at eolson@newcovenantschools.org.

bit.ly/NCS_AGD_Camp



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work proposals with local charitable organizations, we are well aware that our presence on their campuses can actually be a source of disruption and stress. To alleviate that, we carefully plan the projects with high supervision. Another important way we serve is to plan projects for the organizations, with the school providing the supplies for the project. In this way there is no cost to the organization that we are serving. A portion of the sponsorship funds goes to purchase paint, lumber, cleaning supplies, mulch or whatever else is needed.

This year's project enjoyed the support of 13 corporate sponsors and more than 541 individuals. The total amount raised was \$54,805. The balance of these funds will be applied to two other initiatives at New Covenant. A portion will be applied to the Permanent

Things Campaign which is entering its third and final phase. Another part will be used to upgrade the theater lighting in the Moomaw Center. For twenty years the drama program has been using light trees for all productions that require stage lighting. While the lights are in good repair and usable, they provide a limited range of effects. The additional lighting will be permanently mounted on the ceiling joists and will take advantage of newer LED technology and wireless controls. With over 1,000 channels on the new light board, the range of color lighting options will be significantly expanded. All of these will be integrated into one system.

As the Hands & Hearts project concludes, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to our sponsors and volunteers, our faculty and staff and the students

who willingly devoted themselves to the tasks. In addition to the exceptional administrative leadership from Development Director **Dayna Renalds**, we also wish to thank her leadership team of volunteers. Her circle of moms provided critical behind-the-scenes efforts that made the entire project run smoothly. Thank you **Sarah Gauger, Courtney Tucker, Ellen Steed and Dolly Seckman** for the hours you offered to the project. Assigning and organizing teams, arranging transportation for 450 students, sorting t-shirts and helping to prepare hundreds of mailers made up only a part of their many responsibilities. Without these volunteers, our staff could not have succeeded as it did.



(Left) Students working to beautify The Arc with new landscaping. (Top) Sixth graders pitching in at the Miller Home for Girls. (Bottom) Eighth graders painting at Monacan Indian Nation.

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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