



GS Poetry Recital finalists and grade winners entertained their audience in the Moomaw Center on Friday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

OCTOBER 23, 2023  
VOL. 26 NO. 10 MAJORIS

## THE SOR DC TRIP AND LESSONS OF OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE

by Scott McCurley, Academic Dean

A few weeks ago, the whole of the School of Rhetoric traveled to our nation's capital. This annual tradition achieves social, cultural, and academic objectives. It also functions as a 'retreat' for the SOR as students and teachers have an extended time away together, bonding over shared travel, food, and significant historical sites. All the while, we are afforded the opportunity to interact in a relaxed environment, learning and experiencing together. Each grade has a distinct itinerary; thus, as

students move through their tenure in the SOR, they visit new sites each year. By the time they graduate, they have seen nearly all the highlights of our nation's capital. Here is a sampling of what we visited:

- Library of Congress
- U.S. History Museum
- A walking tour of the major monuments from the Washington Monument to the Jefferson Memorial

*continued on p.4*

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### New Banners in Workman Field House



The Workman Field House has been decorated with several new banners this year. The long, narrow ones hanging on the far side of the basketball court were original to the space and have been updated with help from **Mark Hernandez**, our publisher and graphic designer. You will notice photographs depicting the Gryphon spirit, dedication to hard work, and celebration

of victory. On the opposite side of the court, our senior athletes are acknowledged. Twenty-four of our seniors fill slots on our tennis, volleyball, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, swim, cross-country, track & field, and golf teams. Their dedication to these sports provides an example to other teammates and our entire athletic program. You may view these banners

**this Thursday evening as we celebrate Senior Night** for our Lady Gryphons Volleyball team. The game against North Cross begins at 5:45pm. Seniors playing on the soccer, cross-country, and tennis teams were acknowledged in a ceremony last week. Let's continue to cheer on our Gryphons as we move into the winter athletic season. Go Gryphons!

# H O N O R A R I A

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL POETRY WINNERS

**KINDERGARTEN** – First-place ribbon and Jefferson cup: **Foster Harris**, “If a Pig Wore a Wig” by Christina Georgina Rosetti

**1ST GRADE** – First-place ribbon: **Amelia Gunn**, “Dancing on the Hill-Tops” by Christina Georgina Rosetti

**2ND GRADE** – First-place ribbon and Jefferson cup for Lower Grammar: **Trey Robbins**, “A Bird Came Down” by Emily Dickinson

**3RD GRADE** – First-place ribbon and Jefferson cup for Upper Grammar: **Noelle Deyo**, “Escape at Bedtime” by Robert Louis Stevenson

**4TH GRADE** – First-place ribbon: **Emmy Roberts**, “Great, Wide, Beautiful, Wonderful World” by William Brighty Rands



*Jefferson Cup winners (L-R): Foster Harris, Noelle Deyo and Trey Robbins.*



*First-place winners: Emmy Roberts and Amelia Gunn.*

## CROSS-COUNTRY

**Tuesday, October 10**

### MS AND VARSITY CROSS-COUNTRY

Michael Seckman – 2nd Overall Varsity Men  
Joseph Robert – 4th Overall Varsity Men  
Gia Barlow – 1st Overall Varsity Women  
Hannah Edwards – 5th Overall Varsity Women  
Eli Rose – 1st Overall MS Boys  
Colton Buckner – 2nd Overall MS Boys

Luke Ancona – 3rd Overall MS Boys  
Ollie Brunett – 4th Overall MS Boys  
Tinley Tucker – 2nd Overall MS Girls

**Friday, October 20**

### VARSIY CROSS-COUNTRY

2nd-Place Team Finishes  
Michael Seckman – 1st Overall  
Gia Barlow – 3rd Overall



## SPORTS SCORES

**Tuesday, October 10**

### JV VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....2  
Miller School.....0

### VARSIY VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....3  
Miller School.....0

### VARSIY WOMEN'S TENNIS

Miller School.....3  
New Covenant.....6

### VARSIY MEN'S SOCCER

New Covenant.....7  
Carlisle.....0

### JR GRYPHONS VOLLEYBALL

James River Day.....1  
New Covenant.....2

**Thursday, October 12**

### JV VOLLEYBALL

Covenant School.....0  
New Covenant.....2

### VARSIY VOLLEYBALL

Covenant School.....0  
New Covenant.....3

### VARSIY WOMEN'S TENNIS

New Covenant.....1  
Covenant School.....8

### MS BOYS' SOCCER

Covenant School.....2  
New Covenant.....3

**Friday, October 13**

### VARSIY MEN'S SOCCER

New Covenant.....1  
North Cross.....2

### VARSIY WOMEN'S TENNIS

Eastern Mennonite.....0  
New Covenant.....9

**Thursday, October 19**

### VARSIY MENS' SOCCER

Grace Christian.....0  
New Covenant.....6

### JV VOLLEYBALL

Grace Christian.....1  
New Covenant.....2

### VARSIY VOLLEYBALL

Grace Christian.....0  
New Covenant.....3

**Friday, October 20**

### JV VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....2  
Lynchburg Homeschool.....1

### VARSIY VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....3  
Lynchburg Homeschool.....0

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund/Permanent Things	\$100,000	\$5,171
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$3,836
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$122,100 Received \$44,051

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.

# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### A LATTE POETRY

The Middle School will have their final poetry recital **this Friday, October 27 at 7pm** in the Moomaw Center. All are invited and welcome to attend. An email was sent from **Erin Uminn** to all Middle School parents on **October 13** with additional information. Please refer to that email for instructions regarding your Middle School student and what they should wear and bring.

### SOR POETRY RECITAL

Come enjoy hot chocolate, poetry, and a warm fire at the SOR poetry recital tomorrow, **Tuesday, October 24**, in the courtyard at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

### 8TH GRADE PARENT BREAKFAST

Parents with a student rising to 9th grade for the 2024-25 school year are invited to join Mr. McCurley for breakfast on **Friday, October 27 from 8am to 9am**. Come and hear about what awaits your student in 9th grade and beyond. Please email your RSVP to Linda Simon, [lsimon@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lsimon@newcovenantschools.org).

### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

There will be **no school on Wednesday, November 1**. We will hold parent/teacher conferences that day from **12:30-6:00pm**. A link will be emailed later this week to sign up for a conference with your child's teachers.



### YEARBOOK: SUMMER VACATION PHOTOS

If you would like to share a photo of your student or your family on summer vacation 2023, please send a JPG to Yearbook Advisor **Mark Hernandez** for consideration by the yearbook staff. [mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org).

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2024-25 school year will be able to accept applications beginning on **Wednesday, November 1**, 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.factsmgmt.com/aid> to apply. An email will follow with more detailed instructions.

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

If you are available during the school day and wish to be on call as substitute teacher, you can apply for the position and be added to our list of subs. If interested, go to the "Join Our Team" page on the school website and submit a faculty application online, omitting the essays.

### WINTER ATHLETIC REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for 5th-12th grade for the winter sports season. Click on the following link to register for winter sports: [Athletic Sign Up Form - New Covenant Schools](#). The deadline to register is this **Friday, October 27**. All students participating need to have a physical form on file. Students only need one per academic year, so if they played fall sports or have one on file for the 2023-24 school year there is no need to submit another one. The form can be found at [VISAA-Pre-Participation-Physical-Examination-Form.docx \(live.com\)](#). Please reach out to **John Maynard** with any questions at [jmaynard@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:jmaynard@newcovenantschools.org).

### YEARBOOK ORDERING

Each family will have one yearbook automatically ordered and designated for your oldest student. Families' FACTS account will be charged \$45 for the yearbook. To order EXTRA yearbooks, use the following Sign-Up Genius link 2023-2024: [Yearbook 2023-2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](#). Additional yearbooks cost \$30 each and may be ordered through **October 31**. After October 31st, additional yearbooks must be ordered directly through our vendor, Herff Jones, and will cost \$50.

### FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING EDUCATION



Would you like to know more about the VA 529 Savings Plan and the VA Educational Improvement Tax Credits Scholarship Program? These programs offer ways for you to pay school tuition with tax-free savings or make a bigger impact with your charitable gift. Join us **this Wednesday, October 25 at 7:45am** in the library to hear from our Director of Development on how these programs work. You may reserve your spot here <https://bit.ly/FundingEducation2023>.

continued from p. 1

- The National Cathedral and the Basilica
- National Gallery of Art
- Holocaust Museum
- The Bible Museum
- The African American Museum

So much of what we see and hear in these wonderful locations allows us to put ‘flesh on the bone’ to what the students are learning in the classroom. We are able to: (1) focus on American history through the museum of that same name, as well as through the Library of Congress and the Monument Walk; (2) focus on art and architecture through the Gallery tour, the National Cathedral, and again, through a deep consideration of the monuments, where questions naturally arise such as ‘What is the purpose of a monument?’ and ‘How does this monument propose to memorialize this person or event?’ and ‘What values are we venerating?’; and

(3) focus on the Church and the Scripture through visiting the Cathedral, the Basilica and the Bible Museum.

Though the Holocaust Museum has been a regular of the senior trip, this year, for the first time, we were able to add the African American Museum. This, frankly, made for a heavy day for the seniors and their chaperones as it made vivid the horrors of what fallen humanity is capable of. But we must honestly face history and the profound truism that ideas have consequences. Indeed, this was particularly poignant in our hearts and minds since less than 48 hours later, Hamas terrorists brutally murdered Israeli citizens—the largest death toll of the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Because this is an overnight trip, we are afforded the opportunity to engage in an evening event and this year, for the first time since COVID, we returned to the Kennedy Center where we were treated to a captivating performance by

the National Symphony Orchestra. This is a spectacular venue, and the experience was enhanced by the fact that many of our students were seated in the first two rows. Though we might grant that symphonic music is not high on most of our students’ Spotify playlists, they did a marvelous job leaning into that experience, appreciating the incredible musicianship on display.

The Washington, DC trip is just one of many extraordinary opportunities in a student’s career at New Covenant. Few schools make this kind of field trip even once during high school. We are pleased to make this a staple of the New Covenant experience.



SOR students in first-row seating, ready for a spectacular Kennedy Center performance.

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2024 • Mike Lovell • Class of 2025  
Neil Bohnert • Leslie Moeller • Bob Price  
Leland Seckman • Dan Vollmer  
Class of 2026 • John Gauger • Nancy Hall  
Chris Misiano • Sam Mizener • Tom Rogers  
Anne Umbarger

### 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

# On Being a Father

*A men's retreat for New Covenant Dads*

Marriage.  
Parenting.  
Being a good husband.  
Being a good dad.  
It's never been easy, but it's quite likely that it's never been this difficult.

Be encouraged. Come to the men's retreat at Bold Branch Farm hosted by our Headmaster, John Heaton. This gathering offers you the opportunity to meet other dads, enjoy great food, and hear from John as he shares from the Scriptures and from his experience of parenting and working with children of all ages.



## SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY

- 5:00 pm Registration (early arrivals welcome)
- 6:00 pm Dinner provided by Retreat Chefs, Scott Speakes and Mitch Copenhaver
- 7:30 pm Headmaster remarks and discussion
- 9:00 pm Campfire and conversation

### SATURDAY

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Headmaster remarks
- 9:45 am Group activities

Sign up here to attend —  
[https://bit.ly/mens\\_retreat2023](https://bit.ly/mens_retreat2023)

## RETREAT VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

*Adam Miller  
Scott Speakes  
Ben Hinson  
Adam Lancaster  
Mike Sharrett*

**NOVEMBER 10-11, 2023**  
Bold Branch Farm, Bedford, VA

Time: Friday 5:00 pm – Saturday 12:00 pm  
Cost: \$28 per person to cover food expenses



# COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES

## *We invite you to be our guest*

The Community Lecture Series is sponsored by New Covenant Schools as a forum for discussion of contemporary issues. Our guests will address subjects that benefit families, providing information, perspective, and meaningful conversation.



## Raising Sturdy Children

Keith McCurdy ED.S., L.P.C., L.M.F.T.

**NOVEMBER 6, 2023 | 7:00PM**  
**MOOMAW CENTER**

*Childcare is available for children aged infant through 4 years.*

Keith McCurdy has worked with families, children, parents, and individuals for over 35 years in the field of mental health. He received his Master of Arts and Education Specialist degrees from James Madison University. He is currently the President and CEO of Total Life Counseling, Inc., and is licensed in the state of Virginia as a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Keith provides counseling and consulting services as well as a variety of workshops on maintaining healthy relationships, building strong marriages, and improving

parenting skills. He has developed and regularly offers parenting retreats entitled "Raising Sturdy Kids" to help parents operate from the correct paradigm with their children, and has extended and customized this powerful program for schools and students.

For many years Keith has been a nationally recognized consultant and speaker in the workplace and schools both within and outside of the world of Classical Education, and he is the founder of Live Sturdy, LLC. He is regularly featured on multiple podcasts including BaseCamp Live and the Circe Institute, speaking on

topics related to building sturdy marriages and raising sturdy kids. A significant part of his work has been helping parents understand the needed benefit of allowing their children to struggle to learn to do hard things.

He previously served as Chairman of the Board at Faith Christian School, a classical, Christian school in Roanoke, VA. Keith is an avid outdoorsman and previously has been actively involved with Boy Scouts of America and coaching high school basketball. He has been married for 27 years and has two adult children.

Watch our trailer at [www.newcovenantschools.org](http://www.newcovenantschools.org)

**new covenant schools**  
THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

122 Fleetwood Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24501  
434-847-8313 [www.newcovenantschools.org](http://www.newcovenantschools.org)