



First graders visit the other “Big Apple” at Johnson’s Apple Orchard last week.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

NOVEMBER 6, 2023
VOL. 26 NO. 12 MAJORIS

TWO “ASKS”—BUT REALLY TWO “OFFERS”

by John Heaton, Headmaster

This week New Covenant is making a big “ask” of our families.

No, relax, I’m not asking you for money for the Annual Fund, the Permanent Things Campaign or anything like that. Important as they may be for furthering and strengthening our school, those are not the most important things in your life. The most important matters concern your children, and that is likely one reason you have chosen New Covenant as your school. Each day you cede away hours—

time that you entrust to me and to our teachers to instruct, influence, and guide what is arguably the most precious thing you have—your children.

That’s a huge responsibility that I and our faculty shoulder with humility. It’s a shared responsibility, however; your children benefit most when you, their parents, are engaged to the best of your ability in your children’s struggles and triumphs at school.

Last spring and through the summer I renewed my commitment to offer more than Monday-thru-

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WHAT’S NEW?

Childcare for Tonight and the Men’s Retreat Menu

Childcare options for this evening’s meeting have been extended to include students through grade 4. Thank you to **Julie Ivins, Doreen Loy, Ameer Newsome**, and other Grammar School teachers for helping to make this opportunity possible. Children ranging from infants to PK will meet in the Kindergarten Commons. Those in Kindergarten through grade 2 will report to the first and second grade wing and those in third and fourth grade will

head towards their wing of the building. Please pick up your children promptly upon the completion of the evening in order to release our teachers and other workers.

If you are planning on attending the men’s retreat, you may want to know what is on the menu. **Scott Speakes** (Shelton, grade 6) has planned a delicious meal for Friday evening. Come and enjoy!

First course: Mississippi smoked sausage and cheese. Beef tenderloin crostini, rustic olive loaf, horseradish cream sauce, and herbs.

Second course: Coffee-rubbed, local Bold Branch Farms venison fajita wraps, peppers, onions, cilantro lime crema, IPA hop-infused seasoning. Pecan smoked, Alabama small-batch bacon, bourbon cowboy beans.

Dessert: County Sunrise Scratch-Made Hand Pies.

H O N O R A R I A



SPORTS HONORS

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL ARE BRAC CHAMPIONS

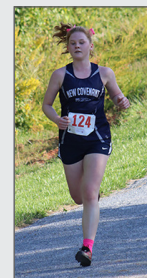
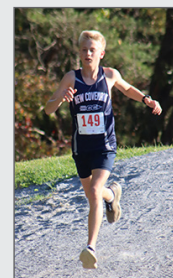
The Varsity Volleyball team claimed the BRAC Conference Championship on Friday with a thrilling 3-2 five-set match against The Covenant School. The win marked just the 2nd ever BRAC Conference Championship for any team at New Covenant. Congratulations to a great team and Coach **Bryan Rigg**.



The team will now host a VISAA State Quarterfinals game vs. Greenbrier Christian of Chesapeake on **Tuesday, November 7 at 5:30pm**. We would love to see many members of the school community come out to support the team! We are required to charge a \$5 fee, but NCS students will be covered by the school.

SECKMAN AND BARLOW EARN ALL-CONFERENCE IN XCOUNTRY

Our cross-country teams raced in the BRAC Championships on Friday. We had two All-Conference finishers in **Michael Seckman** (with a blistering 18:07) and **Gia Barlow**. Overall, our Varsity Team finished 5th and MS finished 6th place.



Michael Seckman (L) and Gia Barlow.

MORSE NOMINATED FOR JEFFERSON SCHOLAR

Senior **Virginia Morse** is the recipient of the School of Rhetoric faculty and staff nomination for the Jefferson Scholar, the University of Virginia's highest distinction for students who best exemplify uncommon excellence in the Jeffersonian ideals of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. This honor is accompanied by a scholarship competition with potential earnings which cover all expenses for four years of attendance at the University of Virginia. Congratulations, Virginia!



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund/Permanent Things	\$100,000	\$10,546
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$4,836
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$148,100 <i>Received</i> \$54,051

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

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be sent via email on **Friday, November 17**.

COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES

Please RSVP to attend the Raising Sturdy Children discussion with Keith McCurdy **tonight at 7pm**. You may let us know you are coming through this link <https://bit.ly/CLSParenting2023>.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

School will break for Thanksgiving from **Monday, November 20 – Friday, November 24**. Students return on **Monday, November 27**.

REMIND APP TEST

New Covenant will be conducting a test of our Remind Emergency Notification System on **November 14** at approximately 9:50am. This is just a test and no action is required by parents.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL LUNCHES

The microwave lines are becoming increasingly longer, and some students do not have adequate time to both prepare and eat their lunches. This is especially a problem on ice cream day, so please pack quick and easy lunches on Thursday to allow students have enough time to eat before ice cream.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Fall athletic awards for the School of Rhetoric will be awarded **Wednesday, November 8 from 12:40-1:30pm** in the Workman Field House. Parents are welcome to attend.

LUNCH ORDERING

Lunch ordering for December is now open and closes the Friday before Thanksgiving

Break on **November 17**. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

TEACHERS' FAVORITES

Each year faculty and staff fill out a favorites sheet listing interests, hobbies, favorite foods, etc. If you would like a copy of a teacher's favorites list, please check the **resource documents** section of the app, or stop by the lobby desk and ask to see the Favorites Book.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2024-25 school year is accepting applications 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> apply. See email sent on **October 31** for details and instructions.

WINTER UNIFORM CLARIFICATION

For young women: leggings are allowed, but should meet the socks, fit like tights (not sweatpants) and match the uniform. No wild and crazy colors—stick with blue, black, white or light grey. Leg warmers are not allowed. On days when the forecast high temperature is 40° or below, young women may wear Flynn & O'Hara uniform slacks, even on dress day, with their normal dress day tops. For young men and women: long-sleeved t-shirts may be

worn under long-sleeved shirts for extra warmth. If the t-shirt is white or navy or light grey, it may be worn under a short-sleeved shirt as well. You may not wear a hoodie under your polo nor a shirt with writing on the sleeves.

THANK YOU, GIVENS BOOKS & LITTLE DICKENS

New Covenant's library has received **\$720.93** from Givens Books & Little Dickens in academic year 2021-22. This holiday season, as you plan your gift list, consider supporting our school library through purchases made at Givens. Here's how the program works: when your family (grandparents, too!) buy goods of any kind from Givens, we receive 3% of your pre-tax purchase total, which is given annually as a credit to our library. Please make sure that you mention New Covenant Schools to the cashier as you check out, and your purchase will be recorded.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL

WHEN: Friday, November 17, 1:30pm.
WHAT TO WEAR: Long, loose athletic pants/jeans, shirt in the color of your team (teams will be posted near MS classrooms soon), athletic shoes which you don't mind getting dirty. The event includes activities planned by the 8th Grade Council. More details to come!

YEARBOOK: SUMMER VACATION PHOTOS



LAST CALL: 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 at mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org.

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Friday school for your boys and girls. I considered the current challenges that confront our students and discussed them with staff members. Together we thought about how New Covenant might serve as a community of friends as you navigate these fast-flying years you are spending raising and educating your young ones.

Two things emerged from those considerations: ways to start a longer conversation to sharpen our vision for our young people, and best ways to realize that vision. The first was to engage my friend **Keith McCurdy** who is uniquely situated to speak into our lives. Keith's own children attended a classical, Christian school, and he served on its board of directors. He knows who we are. He also knows kids. He counsels with hundreds each year in an extensive practice in Roanoke, VA. By the time you read this, he will already have spent

time with our own students and faculty. Tonight, he's looking forward to a forum just for you, and you are invited. That's the first big 'ask.' I know you're busy for sure, but you won't leave tonight's forum feeling as though you wasted an evening.

The second 'ask' is this: following on Keith's conversation starter tonight, I've invited dads to join me at Bold Branch Farm for a men's retreat on Friday and Saturday. We're going to eat well and have great fellowship, but I'll be sharing my reflections "On Being a Father," uniquely tailored to helping our men to be fathers, who bring their children to maturity. I'm not a mental health specialist like Keith, but Heidi and I have raised four children through circumstances that have challenged and deepened our faith. I have also shepherded hundreds of young people throughout my 25 years at New Covenant, seeking to build a community

in which they could thrive. This 'ask' is not only for dads. We know it also requires the support of moms who give up a Friday and Saturday morning with dad away. We know those weekend activities keep on coming! (So, Mom put this copy of **QUID NOVI** in his hands today).

We'll do our very best to make this a fruitful week of reflection and practical encouragement for your family. Perhaps it all is not so much an 'ask' as it is an 'offer.' We offer these opportunities to you as a way of engaging more deeply in the hard work of parenting in a difficult world. Our hope is that you experience the full benefit of them from a closer connection to your fellow travelers in the New Covenant Schools community.



COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES
We invite you to be our guest



Raising Sturdy Children
Keith McCurdy ED.S., L.P.C., L.M.F.T.
NOVEMBER 6, 2023 | 7:00PM
MOOMAW CENTER

Watch our trailer at www.newcovenantschools.org

NEW COVENANT schools
THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2024 • Mike Lovell • Class of 2025
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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

HONORS FOR 1ST QUARTER 2023-2024

SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

Summa cum laude

Caleb McCormick, 12	Mary Glenn Morse, 12	Olivia Kidd, 12	Diego Leal, 12
Adora Hampton, 12	Virginia Morse, 12	Brielle Walker, 12	Beau Brady, 12
Ally Horne, 12	Saria Hostetler, 12	Noah Caldwell, 12	Nicole Clark, 12
Claire Copenhaver, 12	James Brophy, 11	John Brophy, 11	Corey Hackenbracht, 11
Cora Helm, 11	Ellie Jacobs, 11	Melia Leitner, 11	Jenna Ng, 11
Brey Welch, 11	Graden Bolton, 10	Rusty Hooks, 10	Alicia Kenny, 10
Ashe Smith, 10	Enoch Tan, 10	Olivia Fries, 9	Alex Fuhr, 9
Ian Gill, 9	Avery Harrison, 9	Emma Haupricht, 9	Ruby Helm, 9
Charlotte Libbey, 9	Charlotte McCarty, 9	Joel Ng, 9	Joseph Robert, 9
Judah Weber, 9	Elora Williams, 9		

THE DEAN'S LIST

Magna cum laude

Abby Rose, 12	Charlotte Seay, 12	Sarah Robert, 12	Andrew Rogers, 12
Colin Mather, 12	Mae Jacobs, 12	Elizabeth Deneen, 11	Graham Kowalski, 11
Noah McCormick, 11	Declund Stevenson, 11	Lizzie Bryant, 11	Jocelyn Walker, 11
Jack Duncan, 11	Breezy Knight, 10	Grace Brady, 10	Rosa East, 10
Andre Frenchik, 10	Walt Gill, 10	Skye Heap, 10	Olivia Hostetler, 10
Charlotte Morse, 10	Embry Carlton, 9	Ellia Ramsey, 9	Michael Seckman, 9
Caden Smith, 9	Kylie Garnett, 9	Elle Rose, 9	

Cum laude

Zach Dixon, 12	John Scruggs, 11	Emma Fritz, 11	Grace Hendricksen, 11
Ellie Bonebright, 11	Carrington Thackston, 11	Abby Burton, 11	Reese Richardson, 11
Emily Trautman, 11	Stone Haibach, 10	Ryleigh Taylor, 10	Luke Cordes, 10
Micah Xayavong, 10	Eva Andrade, 10	Ayla Gezen, 10	Emma Compton, 9
Hannah Edwards, 9	Journey Lancaster, 9	Molly Hendricksen, 9	Nicholas Richmond, 9
John-Paul Gauger, 9			

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summa cum laude

John Sorenson, 8	Peter Brophy, 8	Naomi Rigg, 8	Elena Andrade, 8
Charis Durand, 8	Christian Henson, 8	Elle Vollmer, 8	Lucy Kirshberger, 8
Idella Olmsted, 7	Claire Reynolds, 7	Bryce Hampton, 7	Gwen Kesler, 7
Luke Ancona, 7	Judah Durand, 7		

Magna cum laude

Jojo Deyo, 8	Ava Boettger, 8	Lizzie Miller, 8	Kendall Morrell, 8
Leila Kenny, 8	Addie Ruhl, 8	Xander Arbaugh-Turner, 8	Joseph Lee, 8
Reese Mahle, 8	Alex Pemberton, 8	Britton Basten, 8	Micah Harrison, 7
Eleanore Seckman, 7	Lilliana Fries, 7		

Cum laude

Sol Knapton, 8	Charlie Kershaw, 8	Elle Shesko, 8	Emma Christian, 8
Alaina Hilton, 8	Gabriel Leitner, 8	Kate Cordes, 8	Colton Buckner, 8
Mitchell Rogers, 7			

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

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