



SOR Houses face off for Turkey Bowl flag football before the Thanksgiving break.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

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## THE TIME OF OUR LIVES: HOW CALENDARS WORK

By John Heaton, Headmaster

One of the pleasant aspects of the work in which teachers and students engage is the rhythm of the academic calendar. Just a few months ago we returned to school full of optimism and hope for the new year. It wasn't a new year as in January 1st, and we didn't greet each other on the first day of school with "Happy New Year!" It was a new year nonetheless. We worked hard to fall break, then Thanksgiving, and soon enough, we'll get to Christmas break. As the school winds down each

spring, teachers look forward to a summer break, and nothing brings smiles to students faces more than the words, "Summer vacation!" The alternating seasons of work and rest, effort and relaxation, combine to consolidate what we have studied and learned.

Our lives are ordered by calendars. There is the civil calendar with all of its attendant holidays like the Fourth of July, Labor Day and the rest. There is the school calendar that we publish a year ahead of time. There's football season, basketball season—pick your

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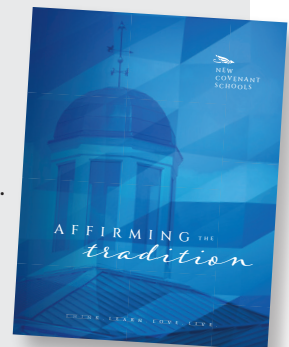
### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Affirming the Tradition

During New Covenant's 33 years of existence, we have continually fielded questions that reduce to, "Can you help me understand classical, Christian education?" In answering the inquiries, we have continually tried to find easy and understandable ways to communicate the essence of our work. Answers to this question have most recently developed into a project called "Affirming the Tradition."

Working with our faculty and staff, we set out to produce a whole portfolio of materials that offer ways for you to increase your understanding of the long tradition from which our educational model has been developed. With today's QUID NOVI you'll find one piece of that project, a short magazine with articles from administration, from faculty, and from our chaplain. Also, included is a selected list of

texts that are read at every level of schooling at New Covenant. We hope you'll take time over the next few days to make a cup of hot tea and peruse the articles which we hope will add to your appreciation for our school and its mission.



# H O N O R A R I A

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS BRING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

New Covenant is grateful to have so many parent volunteers serving in various ways throughout our school. During the Christmas season extra effort is made to beautify our hallways and outdoor spaces. Students arrived at school this morning and were greeted by decorations placed in the lobby and throughout the building by **Eliza Olson**, Director of Parent Relations, and her team of helpers. Thank you for taking time from your schedule to create a festive space for us to enjoy for the next few weeks. It is greatly appreciated.



## NCS ANNUAL ALUMNI SOCCER GAME BRINGS BACK MANY BELOVED GRADS



*NCS alumni gathered for the annual Alumni Soccer Game on the Friday after Thanksgiving to renew old friendships and dust off old cleats.*

### FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund/Permanent Things	\$100,000	\$11,821
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$4,836
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$166,100 <i>Received</i> \$79,051

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

### LESSONS & CAROLS

The annual Service of Lessons & Carols will be held on **Monday, December 18** at Waymaker Church beginning at 7:00 pm. The program will be presented by the combined orchestras, bands, and choirs.

### 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 to have enough time to eat their main meal before ice cream.

### UNIFORM DONATIONS

Gryphon Outfitters, our school store, accepts donations of uniform items in good condition. To donate, simply leave your items at the front desk. Please be sure to donate only uniform items free of stains, tears or personalization. As a reminder, Gryphon Outfitters is open each Thursday school is in session from 2:30-3:30pm.

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

New Covenant is in need of substitute teachers. If you are available during the school day, please consider being a substitute teacher. If interested, go to the "Join Our Team" page on the school website and submit a faculty application online, omitting the essays.

### LUNCH ORDERING

Lunch ordering for January is now open and closes **Friday, December 15**. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto: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 through **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>.

### MS DRAMA TRYOUTS

Dialectic Drama tryouts will be held in the library at **3:30pm on Wednesday, December 6** for 5th and 6th grade and **Friday, December 8** for 7th and 8th grade. The tryouts will last approximately an hour.



[factsmgmt.com/aid](https://factsmgmt.com/aid) apply. See email sent on **October 31** for details and instructions.

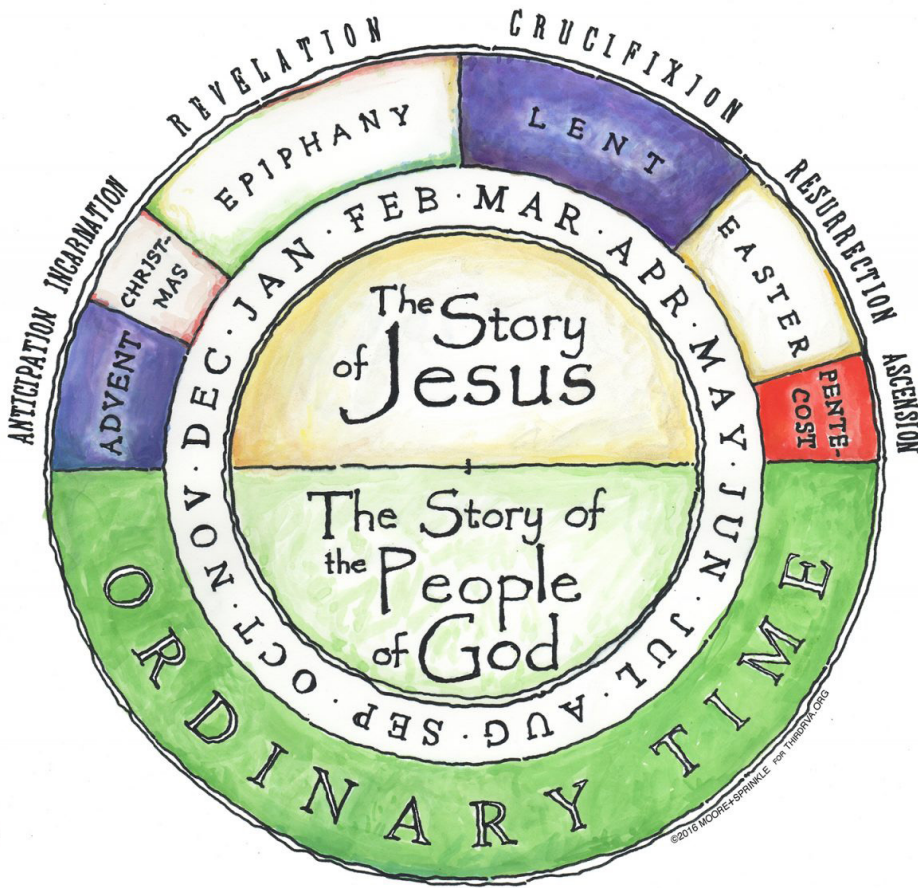
### THANK YOU, GIVENS BOOKS & LITTLE DICKENS

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.

## MS FALL FESTIVAL KICKS OFF THANKSGIVING BREAK



*Middle School students enjoy friendly corn hole competition and flag football at the MS Fall Festival activities on November 17.*



sport and there's a calendar for it. Each one has a formative effect upon us, telling us it's time to anticipate good times, rituals of BBQs, tailgating, or hanging out with friends on the soccer field.

And then—wait for it—there is the Church calendar, the one with which we might be the least familiar, but which, in our tradition, is supremely important. Unfamiliar to many, this last calendar invites us to track the time of our lives with something entirely different. It teaches us when to be expectant, when to be happy, when to be reflective, when to enter into sorrow, and when to be jubilant. This calendar tracks time by recapitulating the life of our Lord, and as such it is an ancient practice important for the formation of faith.

And it is ancient. Since the very

formation of God's people in the Old Testament, a detailed calendar was imposed by God himself so that his people would remember what he did in history, past time, the events of which were to be formative going forward in time: Passover, the Exodus, the giving of the Law, Pentecost and Tabernacles, just to name the major ones. That calendar was so extensive that in a seven-year block of time the festival days or feasts were so numerous that the Hebrews effectively enjoyed a four-day work week (I've done the math).

We're getting ready to begin the "new year" this coming Sunday, the fourth Sunday before Christmas. I know the school is already "greened," as are some of your churches, but it's not Christmas yet. The four weeks leading up to the twelve-

day feast of Christ's nativity are set aside to prepare for it. Each of these four weeks will take up a special theme and, taken together, they serve a particular function. The month leading to Christmas Eve is designed to place us—liturgically speaking—into the same historical space our fathers occupied before Messiah came. Sure, we know the whole story already, but the function of the calendar is to recapitulate the world which lay in exile with the Jews before the first Advent of Jesus. We can't go back in time, but the calendar invites us to enter into that world of expectation by consciously re-imagining what that world was like.

This year, I am writing a blog which will begin next week, and which will detail the Church calendar for you. It so happens that the significant events of Jesus' life are all completed during the span of the academic year. Watch your QUID NOVI for a short summary each week with a link to my blog for a detailed explanation of what's going on in the Church calendar. Get ready! It could be the time of your life!

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Heaton—Headmaster  
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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