



Gryphons Varsity Men's Basketball in action against VES last Tuesday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

FEBRUARY 12, 2024  
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## THE LENTEN SEASON—"THOU ART DUST"

by Fr. Davidson Morse, Chaplain

As a child, some of my favorite stories were from the *Frog and Toad* series. One of the best told how Toad baked some cookies and took them to Frog. Once they had started eating, they realized that they were bingeing and couldn't stop. Even though they knew they would be sick they kept eating. Frog declared, with his mouth full of his fifth cookie, "We need willpower." How will they get this willpower? By putting the cookies in a box, tied with a string, on a high shelf only accessible with a ladder. But Toad realizes that they could climb the ladder and open the box and keep eating. Frog eliminates the temptation by throwing the rest of the cookies to the birds. Frog

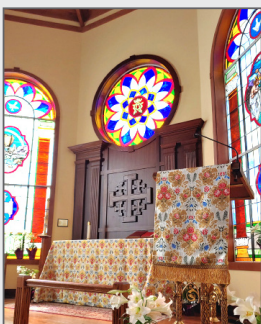
says to Toad, "Now we have lots of willpower." Toad responded, "You may keep it all, Frog. I'm going home to bake a cake."

The five- or six-year-old me thought it was very funny that these characters were unable to stop eating and finally giving cookies to birds all the while knowing they had a cake to eat. The adult me knows the truth, the only too common truth, that stands behind the children's story. I experience it every time I go to my favorite Mexican restaurant. Why can't I stop eating chips and salsa? I have already ordered my enchilada dinner. Why must I eat a basket of chips? What we need is willpower. Self-control is hard

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### You Are Invited



All Saints Church, the parish affiliated with our school, is inviting you to a variety of services over the next few weeks. This Tuesday the men of All Saints will be serving a **pancake dinner in the Grammar School Commons at 6:30pm** in conjunction with Shrove Tuesday. The following morning, **Ash Wednesday**, the service of the Imposition of Ashes will be held at 7:00am

in the school chapel. The Imposition of Ashes is a brief service that will be concluded by 7:40am, our customary time for dismissal from faculty Matins. The service consists of readings from the Old and New Testaments, the Psalms, the singing of two hymns and the reception of ashes on the forehead. Finally, All Saints will be hosting **Evensong** (sung Evening Prayer) every

Wednesday during Lent at 6:30pm in the school chapel. Each service will be followed by a soup and salad supper in the Grammar School Commons. **Lukas Stock**, SOR faculty and All Saints member, will give a Lenten meditation after supper. The whole school community is cordially invited to any of these services.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A

## mary poppins



• **Thursday, February 22 – 7:00pm**  
*Special Pricing—Middle School Team Points Night.*

• **Friday, February 23 – 7:00pm**

• **Saturday, February 24 – 2:00pm**  
*Special Pricing—Flying High with the Cast! Students 12 and under are invited to mingle and fly kites with the cast after the show (adult supervision required).*

**RAFFLE**—Purchase a \$5 ticket to win a 30-minute individual kite-flying lesson from kite pilot and enthusiast **Bruno Andrade**, and a new kite.

• **Saturday, February 24 – 7:00pm**

• **Thursday, February 29 – 7:00pm**  
*Special Pricing—SOR House Points Night.*

• **Friday, March 1 – 7:00pm**

• **Saturday, March 2 – 2:00pm**  
*Special Pricing—Flying High with the Cast! Students 12 and under are invited to mingle and fly kites with the cast after the show (adult supervision required).*

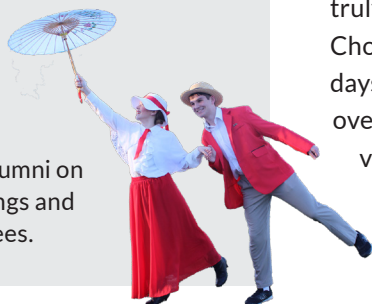
**RAFFLE**—Purchase a \$5 ticket for a 30-minute individual kite-flying lesson from kite pilot and enthusiast **Bruno Andrade**, and a new kite.

• **Saturday, March 2 – 7:00pm**

Door prize courtesy of Allegro Music School at every evening performance.

Purchase tickets on our website. Find the purchase button on the homepage.

Special pricing for faculty, students, and alumni on Thursday evenings and Saturday matinees.



## POWELL SURPASSES 1,000PTS

Senior **Douglas Powell** surpassed the 1,000 point marker in Varsity Men's Basketball at New Covenant on Friday evening in a game against Veritas School. Doug has averaged 19 points per game this season and 14.5 points per game during his career at New Covenant. Doug becomes the third men's player to join the thousand points club for the Gryphons. Congratulations to Doug!



## CHORAL GROUP COMPETES IN ALL-DISTRICT

Congratulations to the six talented students from New Covenant Schools selected to participate in the prestigious 2024 All-District Chorus: **Ruby Helm, Emma Haupricht, Enoch Tan, Charlotte McCarty, Elizabeth Bryant, and Samuel Miller** (not pictured). Their dedication to musical excellence and commitment to artistic growth are truly commendable. The All-District Chorus event took place over two days, February 9-10, and featured over 250 of the best high school vocalists in our area.

## CORA HELM COMPETES IN SHAKESPEARE RECITAL



As part of the Drama Performance class last fall, each student presented a monologue from one of Shakespeare's plays, and a panel of judges chose the best one to compete in the English Speaking Union's annual Shakespeare competition. The regional competition was held in the Blackfriar's Theatre at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton on February 3. New Covenant's participant was junior **Cora Helm**, who performed a monologue from *Twelfth Night* as well as Shakespeare's Sonnet 73. Cora said about the experience, "Although I didn't win, I was able to witness nine other incredible performances and enjoy being on that stage, something I have wanted to do for years." Cora was an excellent representative of our school and did very well herself. You can also see her perform in the Panache Playmakers' upcoming performances of *Mary Poppins*.

# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### WINTER BREAK

School will be closed for Winter Break from **Thursday, February 15** through **Monday, February 19**. Students return on **Tuesday, February 20**.

### VALENTINE'S DAY FREE DRESS

Students and faculty/staff are invited to celebrate by wearing a red, white and/or pink shirt with jeans or regular uniform bottoms **Wednesday, February 14**. (As always, shoes must be closed-toed and jeans must be free of rips and tears.)

### PANACHE PRESENTS

The School of Rhetoric is proud to present *Mary Poppins*. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at [www.newcovenantschools.org/ncs-tickets](http://www.newcovenantschools.org/ncs-tickets) or on the NCS app under Forms. See box on page 2 for show dates and times.

### ART AND SCIENCE FAIR

Submissions for the Art Fair are **due this Wednesday, February 14**. Students in grades K-12 may submit two pieces of art in painting, mixed media, sculpture, photography, and/or film. Students' work in grades 4-12th will be in the judged art show. Artwork must be unframed and can be directly submitted to Mr. Dunaway or Miss Eshleman. Parents who would like to volunteer to mat and hang work contact **Michael Dunaway** at [mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org) or **Hattie Eshleman** at [heshleman@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:heshleman@newcovenantschools.org). For more details see the flyer in the **February 5 QUID NOVI**. The Art and Science fair will take place on **Monday, March 11**.

### LUNCH ORDERING

Lunch ordering for March is now open and runs through this **Friday, February 16** which is during Winter Break, so please plan accordingly. Direct any questions to Debbie Williamson at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents may be on the lookout for an email with a link to view their student's progress report **Wednesday, February 14**.

### GENERATIONS DAY

On the morning of **Friday, March 15**, grandparents and other special guests are invited to join students in class for Generations Day. **There will be an 11am dismissal on this day.**

### ILLNESS POLICIES

During cold and flu season help New Covenant stop the spread of illness by practicing the following policies. Keep your student at home for:

- A fever greater than 100 degrees. The student may return to school when they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- Vomiting or diarrhea.
- Wet, congested or croupy cough.

Consider keeping your child home if they have a mild sore throat, headache, stomachache, or a very runny or stuffy nose and/or cough that could disrupt class. Thank you for your help with this. At this time NCS is not requiring you to follow the CDC recommendations with regard to COVID—students need to be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of

an antipyretic medication and symptoms are resolved or greatly improved to return to school.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR HANDS & HEARTS

Our schoolwide service day will be **Wednesday, April 17**. Parents are welcome to work alongside students completing tasks for area nonprofit groups. Watch for more information in the next few weeks.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MS FOOD DRIVE

The Middle School council is hosting a "Soup-er Bowl" food drive for the Blue Ridge Food Bank. There are four team labeled containers placed in the four middle school classrooms. Each container is labeled with one of the four team colors. Students should place their donations of non-perishable food items in their team's containers. Whichever team donates the most food will win 2 points for their team. This event is only for Middle School students. We will be collecting food now through this **Wednesday, February 14**.



*First graders reclining for lunch on Latin Day last Friday.*



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to come by. And once it is gained it is hard to maintain. St. Peter writes in his second letter, "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control."

So, how do you get self-control? You have to ask God for it, and then you have to practice it. Paul writes to the new Christians in Corinth that it's like training for a race. You have to put the miles in before you attempt the race. He says, "So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." The Christian's life must be different from the surrounding culture. Swimming against the tide is exhausting. How can we do it? We need to practice.

We are entering on the practice season for the Christian life. This season is called Lent. The word 'Lent' can be confusing because in Latin it means 'lighten' or 'lengthen' as in the length of daytime as spring approaches. So, the Christian season of Lent occurs in the spring. The practice of Lent is old. The Council of Nicaea, in 325 AD, declared that Jesus was both God and Man, two natures in one person. That same council declared that all Christians should keep a season of fasting and spiritual discipline

for 40 days leading up to Easter. Moses and the Israelites wandered for 40 years. Elijah traveled through the wilderness for 40 days. Jesus himself fasted for 40 days and then was tempted by the Devil. However, Sundays were excluded from those 40 days because every Sunday of the year is considered a little Easter, a little remembrance of the Lord's victory over death and Satan.

So, what's the point of keeping Lent? The point is to get our priorities straight. Like Frog and Toad, we're too easily satisfied with the cookies and cake of this world and we forget the greater joy that awaits those who love Jesus and have lived their lives following him. We begin by going to the Ash Wednesday service where we receive ashes on our heads, and hear the minister remind us, "Remember, oh man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return." Paul writes to the Roman Christians, "I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." We shouldn't be proud, not in front of our neighbors, and especially not in front of God. One of our greatest temptations is to think that we are going to live forever, or die trying! Our English word 'humility' comes from the

Latin word 'humus' which means ground or dirt. We receive ground or dirt, and we are reminded that on our own that's all we are.

Then we spend the 40 days of Lent meditating on and practicing that deep truth. We fast from the things that give us pleasure. I love when the students tell me, "I'm going to fast from my homework during Lent!" or, "I'm fasting from school altogether!" I laugh when friends say, "I'm giving up cussing for Lent!" And I always say the same thing, "You should give up cussing all the time." We should give up sin all the time. But when we give up sweets, or a glass of wine at dinner, or Facebook for 40 days, we say that these are good things that please us. But there are greater things, eternity in glory with God being the greatest of these. So, I invite you to devote yourselves to the practice of spiritual discipline this Lent. Join us in the school chapel at 7am for the Ash Wednesday service. And as we embrace the brief 40 day fast, we look forward to the eternal joy of Eastertide!

FUNDRAISING REPORT			
	GOAL	RECEIVED	
Annual Fund/Permanent Things	\$100,000	\$88,378	
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$54,836	
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i>	\$432,600
		<i>Received</i>	\$407,970

Thank you for considering 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.

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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**