



The annual Blessing of the Animals—held on Friday—saw wonderful pets and creatures of every kind.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

OCTOBER 7, 2024
VOL. 27 NO. 08 MAJORIS

BEAUTY AS ESSENTIAL TO STUDENT FLOURISHING

by John Heaton, Headmaster

One of the central claims of classical education is its insistence upon beauty in the curriculum, on the campus and in the classroom. Beauty is one of three “transcendents,” (the others being truth and goodness). “Transcendent” is the term we use to describe those things that are good in and of themselves. They do not necessarily have utilitarian value or usefulness as means to another end—they are ends in themselves and pursued for their own sake. Beauty, along with truth and goodness, is essential to human flourishing. As NT Wright has said, “Beauty matters. It is not simply the icing on the cake of our existence; it is woven into the fabric of who we are.” In short, you must have beauty in your life.

This claim, however, runs counter to our culture.

Our consultants at Independent School Management (ISM) have conducted research on parents, who, when searching for a school for their children, ranked the things that were most important to them. Topping the list, not surprisingly, was safety. A close second was caring and competent teachers, and third, a proven curriculum. These top three were far and away on the minds of more than 80% of the respondents.

The research, however, dug deeper and went further. When queried about the appearance of the campus, only 16% of respondents indicated that it mattered—less than one in five! I’ll be careful, as I don’t want to be too critical. It’s entirely possible that a survey of this sort naturally “harvests” top of mind issues that should characterize good schools.

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WHAT’S NEW?

Dedication and Naming of the Marion A. Patterson Library

This afternoon the board, faculty and staff of New Covenant will gather in the library at 4 o’clock to honor New Covenant’s first Grammar and Middle School Principal, **Marion Patterson**. As you know, Mrs. Patterson concluded 27 years with the school last spring, Her legacy would be difficult to overstate, and her influence upon thousands of students over the span of her career cannot be measured. At a recent board meeting it was determined that the library would be named in her honor as the Marion A. Patterson Library. In addition, the office for student support, which she designed before her retirement, will become “The Center for Paideia.” Appropriate entablature has been installed for today’s ceremony.

H O N O R A R I A



SPORTS SCORES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

5/6 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Lynchburg Homeschool	2
New Covenant.....	3

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	2
Chatham Hall	1

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	3
Chatham Hall	0

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

5/6 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

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

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

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



7/8 Girls' Volleyball have played with determination and teamwork all season long.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Oct 8 | Varsity Men's Soccer vs. Blue Ridge School, 4:30pm. JV Girls' Volleyball vs. VES, 5:00pm. Varsity Women's Volleyball vs. VES, 6:15pm.

Oct 10 | Varsity Women's Volleyball vs. Roanoke Catholic School, 6:15pm. JV Girl's Volleyball vs. Roanoke Catholic School at 5:00pm.

Oct 11 | Full slate of both soccer and volleyball games. Check out the Gryphons app for more info.

SOR POETRY WINNERS



JEFFERSON CUP WINNER
Brey Welch



SOR Poetry Finalists. Front (L-R): Wyatt Copenhaver, Josiah Thornhill, Naomi Rigg, Emma Christian, Ian Gill, Joel Ng, Ruby Helm, Emma Haupricht. Back (L-R): Lizzie Bryant, Corey Hackenbracht, Cora Helm, Brey Welch, Micah Xayavong, Enoch Tan, Ashe Smith, Ryleigh Taylor.

9TH GRADE

- **Emma Christian** (Antioch)
The Madman by C. J. Dennis
- **Wyatt Copenhaver** (Antioch)
Roads Go Ever Ever On by J.R.R. Tolkien
- **Naomi Rigg** (Antioch)
Matilda by Hilare Beloc
- **Josiah Thornhill** (Antioch)
Song of Amroth by J.R.R. Tolkien

10TH GRADE

- **Ian Gill** (Alexandria)
Peter Goole by Hilare Beloc
- **Emma Haupricht** (Canterbury)
The Instructiphone by Carolyn Wells
- **Ruby Helm** (Wittenberg)
Gueenevere (abridged) by Sara Teasdale
- **Joel Ng** (Canterbury)
Of the Awefull Battle of the Pokes and the Pollicles by T.S. Eliot

11TH GRADE

- **Ashe Smith** (Alexandria)
The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock (excerpts) by T.S. Eliot
- **Enoch Tan** (Antioch)
Look What You Did, Christopher! (abridged) by Ogden Nash
- **Ryleigh Taylor** (Antioch)
A Dream Lesson by Carolyn Wells
- **Micah Xayavong** (Wittenberg)
The Female of the Species (abridged) by Rudyard Kipling

12TH GRADE

- **Lizzie Bryant** (Wittenberg)
The Long Road Home (slightly abridged) by C. J. Dennis
- **Corey Hackenbracht** (Canterbury)
How the Cat Was Belled (abridged) by Carolyn Wells
- **Cora Helm** (Wittenberg)
The Dog Star Pup (slightly abridged) by Henry Herbert Knibbs
- **Brey Welch** (Alexandria)
Teddy Bear by A.A. Milne



Grade winner

EVERYONE

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2025-26 school year will accept applications beginning on **Friday, November 1, 2024**, and will remain open until **January 15, 2025**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a **first-come, first-served basis**, so do not delay! Be looking for a separate email on **Monday, October 28** with more detailed instructions.

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. If you do not want to receive the automatically ordered yearbook, please email **April Andrade** at aandrade@newcovenantschools.org before **October 18**. To order EXTRA yearbooks, use the following Sign-Up Genius: bit.ly/NCSYearbook2025. Additional yearbooks cost \$35 each and may be ordered through **October 31**. After October 31, additional yearbooks must be ordered directly through our vendor, Varsity Yearbook, and will cost \$50.


SCHOOL PHOTOS RETAKES

HJ Photo returns to campus on **Thursday, October 24** for picture retakes. If your student was absent on picture day, they will automatically be rescheduled. Proofs will be emailed before retake day, and if you wish to have your student's photo retaken, please contact **Eliza Olson** at eolson@newcovenantschools.org.

LUNCH ORDERING

November lunch ordering is now open and will close on **Friday, October 18**. Fall Break occurs during that time, so don't delay getting your orders in. Families

FALL BREAK



There will be no school and the office will be closed for our Fall Break **Monday, October 14 - Wednesday, October 16**. Students return on **Thursday, October 17**.

who subscribe to the school milk plan will receive a \$35 charge to their lunch account mid-October. Please direct any questions to **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

END OF QUARTER

Mark your calendars for the end of the first quarter this week. Report cards will be emailed to parents on **Wednesday, October 23**.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found bins are purged at the end of each quarter. Be sure to check for any lost items before **Friday, October 11**.

NONFAMILY AND ALUMNI LUNCH VISITOR POLICY

If an alumni or nonfamily member wishes to eat lunch with a current student, please notify the office at NCSoffice@newcovenantschools.org 24 hours in advance to have it approved by department heads.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN 2025-26

Current families have until **Friday, October 11** to apply for siblings in all grades Pre-K/K and beyond to receive priority in the admissions process. You may still apply after the deadline, but your child's seat will no longer be protected, and applications from new families will be considered. This is especially important for parents who have a rising Pre-K or Kindergarten student

not currently enrolled. Parents with children presently in New Covenant's Pre-K do not need to submit another application. Use this link to start your application today! <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/> Questions? Email or call **Linda Simon** at lsimon@newcovenantschools.org or 434-847-8313.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

PANACHE AUDITIONS

Auditions for *Little Women*, the School of Rhetoric's winter play, will take place on **Wednesday, October 9 at 3:30pm** in the New Covenant Library. All interested students are encouraged to attend.

SOR PARENT COFFEE

The next SOR Parent Coffee will be **Friday, October 11 at 8:00am** in the Grammar School Commons. The topic will be *Financial Fit and Affording College*. **Lauren Helm**, our guidance counselor, will discuss trends in college costs, deciphering cost of attendance, scholarships, and the distinction between need- and merit-based aid. All SOR parents are welcome and will benefit from gaining familiarity and awareness on this important topic.

SOR TESTING

The SOR will have testing on the following dates:

- **Thursday, October 10:** SAT for registered Seniors
- **Tuesday, October 22:** PSAT for all Sophomores
- **Tuesday, October 29:** PSAT for all Juniors

Please ensure no appointments or absences are scheduled on these dates, as there will be no make-up opportunities.

A safe, loving environment buoyed by a serious curriculum must rank pretty high. I think the survey suggests that this is what most parents think of when they look for a “good school.” Few are thinking that beauty matters; in fact, it is possible that most have not thought about it at all. Schools and churches, like strip malls, have too often value-engineered beauty right out of the picture, leaving highly functional boxes that are not worth looking at and which are quickly overlooked.

If the truth be told, however, we actually *can't* ignore it. Once we build something, it works on us; the physicality of our created spaces continues to shape us. If we conduct our business in an environment we cannot control, such as a rented space or a church basement, we may suppress or ignore the incongruities and tell ourselves it doesn't matter. If though we are blessed to create spaces with intentionality, we should design them in harmony with nature, with color, and light, so as to promote a pleasing aesthetic. Here are few things we have pursued in the development of our campus:

Consistency—From the parking lot to the playground, from the Principal's office to the classroom, we have tried to develop a continuous look and feel. We actively suppress clutter in the administrative wing, and we seriously discourage it in our classrooms. Our facilities crew keeps a yearly cleaning and maintenance schedule

to ensure a tidy campus.

Less is more—Speaking of clutter, we believe that some empty wall space is good. It's okay for students to see the paint. We don't cover every available square inch with visual stimulation. Rather, the look and feel of the classroom, while age appropriate, should have a natural flow that facilitates its purpose. That means that we absolutely prohibit what my Swiss mother-in-law called *kitsch*. Children like bright colors, yes, but classrooms at New Covenant are not dominated by cartoonish “art” and posters.

Outside-Inside—Generous amounts of glass allow us to enjoy natural light in places where we want students to feel relaxed. The library and the hallways were specifically designed to flood common spaces with light, suggesting that illumination of the mind is congruent with the illumination of a room.

Gardens and Commons—Another feature of our campus is the incorporation of courtyards and patios. The central courtyard is completely enclosed, landscaped and illuminated for evening uses. While it is outside, the enclosure ensures that the ambient noise of the city is eliminated, making the space useable for quiet conversation, outdoor classes and social gatherings such as the Poetry Recital. The faculty also have an enclosed garden and patio suitable for lunch or breaks. More than twenty years of intentionally placing trees everywhere on

campus now creates an inviting parklike feel to the outdoor fields and play areas.

Dedicated spaces—To the extent that we have been able, we have created dedicated spaces that are used for specific purposes. The library and the chapel are examples of designs calculated to have particular effects on those who enter. The space dictates the activity that takes place within. When we enter the field house we can yell and cheer; when we enter the library, we use our “library voices;” when we enter the chapel, we go from quiet to making yet another kind of “joyful noise.”

Real art—Finally, we are attempting to help students interact with real art. We are slowly collecting original artwork from local artists and friends of the school to display appropriately. Several pieces already hang in our hallways, along with occasional student work. All of these things work together to elevate beauty in education, and to raise our awareness of its critical value in the formation of our children.

FUNDRAISING REPORT			
	GOAL	RECEIVED	
Annual Fund	\$80,000	\$8,670	
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$1,000	
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i>	\$73,800
		<i>Received</i>	\$20,421

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.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EX OFFICIO
 John Heaton—Headmaster

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