



Fourth graders make their exuberant choice for "President of the Forest" on November 5.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

NOVEMBER 11, 2024  
VOL. 27 NO. 12 MAJORIS

## REMEMBERING OUR PAST, OUR PEOPLE AND OUR PURPOSE

by John Heaton, Headmaster

This edition of QUID NOVI finds school children in that sweet part of the year. These are special days, having settled into a routine, with spirits high as we anticipate the coming holidays. Fall Break is behind us, but Thanksgiving and Christmas are fully in view. Little noticed and lesser-known outside of our chapels was the Feast of All Saints, which is always overshadowed by its twin sister, Halloween. The two observations are celebrated on October 31 and November 1, but our prayer book directs us to say the prayers for these days through the "octave" (like a piano keyboard), a fancy Anglican word for "the next eight days."

I mention it because All Saints is a celebration of the people of God, called to be saints, both those who are here, and those who dwell upon another shore and in a greater light. During these days, we take time to remember them and give thanks for their lives.

Remembering—and being remembered—is a deeply human thing. A casual reading of the ancient epics, such as the *Iliad*, reveals the deep desire of men to live on after death, if only in the minds of those who remember their exploits. Glory achieved in battle on behalf one's homeland was in the foreground of the ancient mind because life was transient and fragile, and death was mysterious and

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Election Day in Grammar School

On Tuesday, November 5, PreK-4th grade students learned about the United States electoral process and cast their ballots for President of the Forest. The candidates in the hotly contested election were the intellectual **Fitzgerald Fox**, entrepreneurial **Betsy Beaver**, and meticulous **Bartholemew Bear**. Students proudly wore their "I Voted" stickers throughout the day and were overheard discussing their electoral predictions. After the polls closed, **Mrs. Spiva** and her dedicated poll workers tabulated the nearly 140 ballots with the utmost integrity. As with all student elections at New Covenant, the results were announced via intercom during dismissal. The student body erupted in cheers and jeers as Bartholemew Bear was elected President of the Forest. It was a fun and informative day for all!



# 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 Keith McCurdy of Total Life Counseling as he shares how to raise sturdy kids.



## SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY

4:00 pm Registration (early arrivals welcome)

6:00 pm Dinner provided by Retreat Chefs, Scott Speakes and Mitch Copenhaver

7:30 pm Keith McCurdy remarks and discussion

9:00 pm Campfire and conversation

### SATURDAY

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am Morning remarks

9:45 am Group activities

Sign up here to attend – [bit.ly/mens\\_retreat2024](https://bit.ly/mens_retreat2024)



## RETREAT VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

*Adam Miller*

*Scott Speakes*

*Ben Hinson*

*Adam Lancaster*

*Mike Sharrett*

**NOVEMBER 15-16, 2024**  
Bold Branch Farm, Bedford, VA

Time: Friday 4:00 pm – Saturday 12:00 noon  
Cost: \$33 per person to cover food expenses

# E T C E T E R A

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL SPECIAL DRESS DAY

On **Friday, November 22**, Grammar School students are invited to dress as pilgrims or Indians in lieu of the regular Friday uniform. Students should still wear closed-toe athletic shoes for PE, recess, and safety purposes.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA TRYOUTS

Middle School students wishing to try out for the spring play, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, should plan on staying after school on **Wednesday, December 11**. Tryouts will be held from 3:30 until 4:30 in the library. Students who are cast in a role will be enrolled in the Drama Exploratory beginning in January. For any questions, contact **Ethan Roberts**, [eroberts@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:eroberts@newcovenantschools.org).

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### SPRING DANCE UPDATE

Please note that the date for the Spring Dance has been changed from Friday, May 23 to **Thursday, May 22**.

### ATHLETIC AWARDS

Fall athletic awards for the School of Rhetoric will be awarded **Wednesday, November 13 from 12:40-1:30pm** in the Workman Field House. Parents are welcome to attend this ceremony.

## EVERYONE

### PRE-K APPLICATIONS

Apply now for Pre-K, 2025-26! If you or someone you know has a child who will be

4 years old by **September 30, 2025**, they may be eligible for our Pre-K program.

Applications are being accepted and you can apply by using this link. <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>

If you would like to tour or if you have questions please contact **Linda Simon** at [lsimon@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lsimon@newcovenantschools.org) or call the office at 434-847-8313.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for the 2025-26 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/aidapply>. See email sent on **October 28** for details and instructions.

### LUNCH ORDERING

It is time to order lunch for December. Ordering is now open and it closes **Friday, November 15**. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### THANK YOU, GIVENS BOOKS & LITTLE DICKENS

This holiday season, as you plan your gift list, consider supporting our school library through purchases made at Givens & Little Dickens. Here's how the program works: when your family (grandparents, too!) buy goods of any kind from Givens & Little Dickens, 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.

### 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.

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be sent via email on **Friday, November 15**.

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

School will break for Thanksgiving from **Monday, November 25 – Friday, November 29**. Students return on **Monday, December 2**.



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uncertain. If, on behalf of one's country, one put his life at risk in daring and dangerous exploits, he would be celebrated as a hero if he survived to return from the field. If the worst happened, and he was killed with honor, he would be remembered perpetually by his countrymen, and celebrated in song for generations to come. In the Christian tradition this takes on greater shape. Think about our Lord, who, in giving bread and wine, commanded his disciples to "do this" as a memorial until his return. Or think about the dying thief who, at the Lord's crucifixion, begged to be remembered in

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Christ's kingdom. We remember Christ in the sacrament; he remembers us upon entering his kingdom. Clearly, remembering is an important feature of our humanity.

Transiency is built into schools, and with it the temptation to forgetfulness. Each year we seat a class of seniors who are eager to finish, and we matriculate the fresh smiling faces of kindergarteners, eager to begin. The student body is always in flux. When alumni return to their *alma mater*, they come back bearing fond memories, but hardly recognizing the current occupants who sit where they once sat. Sure, the same teachers are there, mostly, but even the faculty and staff gradually turn over as time moves

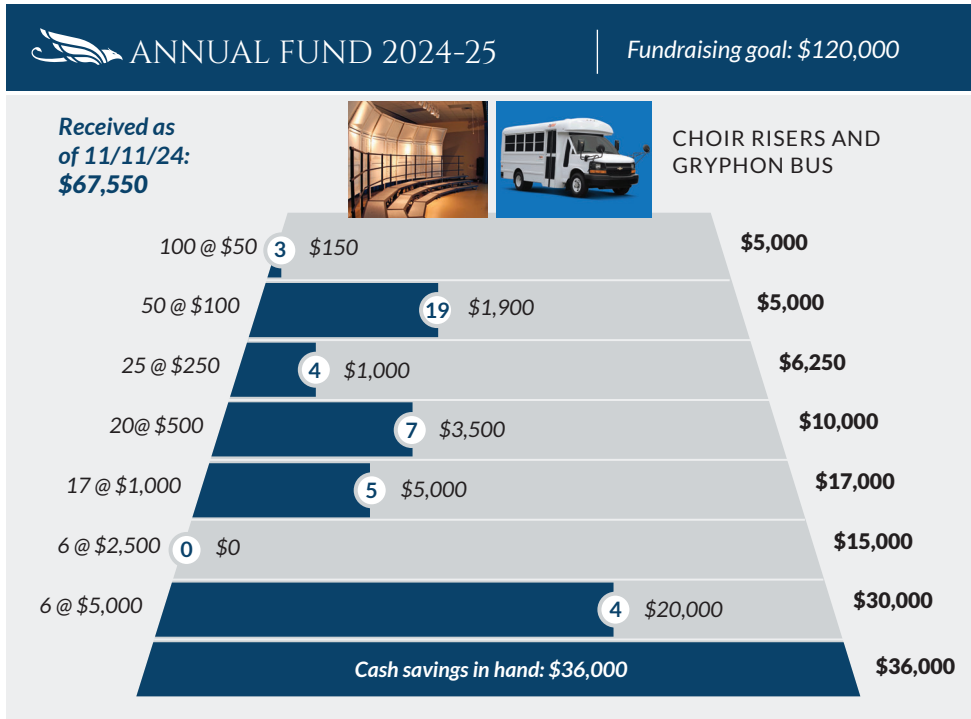
on. A healthy community therefore must consciously remember its past, its people and its purpose if it is to survive as a faithful expression of its founding mission.

During the course of this fall alone, three of our alumni who have started their own families and now have school-aged children, have applied for PreK or kindergarten. Not so many years ago, I was present to accept each of them as young children into the school. As they recently re-toured the school now as young parents, I could appreciate what they felt as they witnessed a new generation of pupils sitting in the same chairs, participating in the very lessons and recitations they themselves encountered. As they return to their

school situated differently in life, I am pleased to show them that it remains, that it still stands, that we maintain fidelity to the same purpose that drove their educational experience.

Some families at New Covenant, because they have several children with wide age spans, have spent years in our community. A significant number of families have been in association with us for three years or less. Regardless of the length of your sojourn, I urge you to embrace the story of New Covenant as your story; to benefit from the classical, Christian tradition to the extent that you can; and to enjoy the benefits of our community by making it your own.

As we come into the holiday season, we enter it with remembrance and thanks for all the blessings we enjoy in the community of New Covenant. Now, in our 34th year, we give thanks for a smiling Providence that has led us on our way, and established our labors with abundant blessings that have been shared with all who have entered our halls.



FUNDRAISING REPORT		
	GOAL	RECEIVED
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$2,500
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$224,800 Received \$69,318
Annual Fund	\$120,000	\$67,550

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.

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 | CLASS OF 2027 — Dusty Miller, Court Shipman, Davidson Morse, Warden

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**

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# NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

## THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

### 2025 – 2026 Academic Calendar – Key Dates

New Covenant Schools sets its academic calendar as far in advance as is reasonably foreseeable.  
This list is subject to change for unforeseen events.

Monday, August 11	<b>School of Rhetoric First Day of School, 8am</b> <b>Grammar &amp; Middle School Meet Your Teacher, 3:30-6pm</b>
Wednesday, August 13	<b>PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade First Day of School</b> (12pm dismissal for PreK, K – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade)
Monday, September 1	NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
Thursday – Monday, October 9-13	NO SCHOOL, Fall Break
Monday, November 3	NO SCHOOL, K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences
Monday – Friday, November 24-28	NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break
Thursday, December 18	11am Dismissal, Christmas Break Begins
Friday – Friday, December 19 – January 2, 2026	NO SCHOOL, Christmas Break
Monday, January 5	Students Return
Monday – Tuesday, January 5-13	J Term in School of Rhetoric
Wednesday, January 14	School of Rhetoric Students Do Not Attend
Monday, January 19	NO SCHOOL, Professional Development for Teachers
Thursday – Monday, February 12-16	NO SCHOOL, Winter Break
Monday – Friday, March 16-20	NO SCHOOL, Spring Break
Thursday, April 2	12pm Dismissal, Easter Break Begins
Friday – Monday, April 3-6	NO SCHOOL, Easter Break
Monday, May 4	NO SCHOOL, May Breather
Thursday, May 21	<b>Kindergarten Graduation and Last Day (12pm Dismissal)</b> <b>Pre-K Program and Last Day (12pm Dismissal)</b> <b>School of Rhetoric Last Day (3pm Dismissal)</b>
Friday, May 22	<b>Middle School Last Day (12pm Dismissal)</b> <b>Grammar School Last Day (12pm Dismissal)</b>
Saturday, May 23	Graduation
Monday – Saturday, May 25-30	Senior Trip

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