



Kids' Knightly News

Christmas Vacation

by Gwyneth Walker

As we all know, it's now December, which means Christmas, and presents! But the true meaning of Christmas isn't the presents, but Jesus being born in the manger.

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten friends are putting on a Christmas play, called *The Baby in the Manger*. It will be on December 16th at 10:30. We will get out of school for a half-day the same day, so we'll go to hook-up at 11:30. Remember, no After-School Care that day!

Then we'll be out for Christmas break. Christmas break lasts from the 16th to January 2—classes resume the 3rd of January, 2012.

At TCS before the break, the sixth graders are going to visit Cheekwood and see all of their different awesome Christmas trees on December 14th. Class

Parties will be held the afternoon of December 15. You can see what Covenant kids like about Christmas from a poll we took on some Christmas topics, which is located on page 4.

Some things that you could do over your holiday break are to play with your new presents, obviously. Some other fun things (without snow) are: watch some Christmas movies, eat soup (when it's really cold), chill with your family, have some friends over, drink lots of hot cocoa, and whatever else that's fun *wink*.

Things to do with snow: Have a snowball fight, make a snowman, ride on a sled, have some friends over (for a second time!), drink lots of hot cocoa (again!), and whatever else that you want to do to get freezing.

If you get any cool pictures of your house or anything else over Christmas break, you can send them to me at: bff.squirrelflight@gmail.com or just print them out and bring them to school. Don't forget to do things for New Year's too! Merry Christmas to everyone, and Happy New Year. See you when we get back!



Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Clement by Suzanne Short

We are so glad to have Mr. Clement here at The Covenant School. Mr. Clement is new this year, and he is awesome! He teaches 6th grade History, and he is the Assistant Head of School to Dr. Graham. He also leads Boot Camp and Christian leadership, and he is the Athletics Director here at The Covenant School. Before Mr. Clement came to work here, he worked at a school called Franklin Christian Academy. Mr. Clement has taught 7th-12th grade. When Mr. Clement was in High School he used to wrestle and even though he didn't play basketball, he can still swish it from the half-court line! He

is one of the best teachers at Covenant and he loves to teach here. Mr. Clement says that he enjoys working at TCS because it reinforces his spiritual and educational beliefs.

The kids in his class say that he is a great teacher, and he makes class fun by using accents!



GO, Cardinals, GO!

Mr. Clement is the biggest Cardinals fan!

Church Chat: Interview with Senior Pastor Jim Bachmann

By Ian Bradley

Q: What is it like to be head pastor, and doing most of the sermons every Sunday?

A: I enjoy being the senior pastor. I get to boss everyone around and tell them what to do and what they are doing wrong. It gives me great pleasure to point out other people's faults and make them feel bad.

Now that I have your attention, here's the real answer: I enjoy being in leadership. Sometimes it is "lonely at the top" as they say, but I am surrounded by wonderful people, including other pastors, with whom I have great camaraderie. Working on the sermons can be stressful and time consuming, particularly when there are other pastoral duties I sometimes neglect. But that's where my great staff comes in and helps me out. I enjoy preaching and find it easier to preach often than seldom.

Q: How do you prepare for a sermon?

A: I prepare any way I can. Usually I read over the text and try to get a couple of major points in mind. Then I will read some commentaries and try to develop an outline. After that it's just a matter of putting meat on the bones and making things flow in a coherent manner. Having good content and good communication skills are vitally important.

Q: Why are the pastors required to wear black robes?

A: The pastors are not required to wear black robes. I actually have a white one and one of these days when I want to look better than the other pastors I will wear it. They will be the men in black and I will be the man

"The thing I love most about being a pastor is engaging with other people in matters of eternal significance,...talking to people and developing friendships around the gospel is the best part."

in white! That should be fun. We wear the robe as an adornment for the gospel we preach. Much like airline pilots wear a uniform to fly their plane, policemen wear a uniform to identify themselves, UPS drivers wear a uniform to adorn their profession so we adorn the gospel and the sacraments with our "uniform." It has the added advantage of covering up all our dressing blunders too.

Q: How much work is put into organizing who does what during the service?

A: It doesn't take much work to decide who does work. I keep a master sched-

ule and try to rotate the responsibilities among the pastors. The men who pastor adults tend to be in worship leadership more than our youth or children's pastors.

Q: What do you love the most about being a pastor?

A: The thing I love most about being a pastor is engaging with other people in matters of eternal significance. Preaching is fun, once the hard work of preparing is complete, but talking to people and developing friendships around the gospel is the best part.

Q: What do you want Covenant Kids to know about you?

A: I want Covenant kids to know that I am just a regular person, like everyone else. I have ups and downs, highs and lows, things that thrill me and things that crush me. I struggle to be a follower of Jesus Christ. I am a sinner and need a Savior. I am very busy but hopefully never too busy for my family whom I love very much! I like sports, children, dogs, pets, and would enjoy being bored every now and then. ><

Faculty Notes: Favorite Parts of Christmas

by Sophie McKenzie and Jacob Taylor

We interviewed a few staff members to see what their favorite part about Christmas was.

Mrs. Rector says: Christmas music, seeing family, and watching "It's a Wonderful Life." Ms. Ward says: being with family. Dr. Graham says: Putting reindeer food on the lawn, being with family, and the Christmas Eve service. Mr. Clement says music and movies (Andrew Peterson's *Behold the Lamb of God*.) Finally Ms. Dunn says: No matter what happens Jesus still comes on Christmas Day!

"What Christmas Means to Me"

by Evans Looney

To most people Christmas means presents and gifts. To me, that is part of what Christmas means, but the most meaningful thing is Jesus Christ being born. His birth was the greatest thing that ever happened to the world! Most of us were born in a hospital, in a nice room with family outside. But Jesus was born in a barn, in a wooden horse feeder with animals around him. But the greatest thing about that is He was born under a huge star, in a barn, with shepherds and wise men. I would do anything to have that!



“The First Christmas” by Miss Storey’s First Grade Class

“The First Christmas”

Our class has taken a trip back in time, and today is the first Christmas! We are celebrating Jesus’ birthday! When we walk up to the stable we see Jesus in the manger, Mary and Joseph praying to God saying, “Thank you for our baby!” We see hay all around us, a star shining bright in the sky, all of the animals, wise men putting gifts in front of the manger and an angel with a halo who lights up all of the darkness. We hear the wind going by the stable, the

sheep bahhning, a wolf howling, the wise men walking up, and an owl hooting. We smell the hay in the manger, the crisp wood made for the barn, and the animal’s fur. We feel the donkeys fur, we feel Baby Jesus’ little toes (after asking Mary of course), and the soft cloth wrapped around Jesus. We also feel joy and peace in our hearts. We are thankful our Savior is born!

The End.

Written by:
Miss Storey’s Class
(First Grade)



“Robin and the Candy Caper” by Mary Joffrion

This is how it all happened: I was at school, listening to utterly boring reports. Oh, brother. It’s Ivan Zizzlestick, the super-smart-champion of the world-guy. (He’s not my favorite person). It turned out that Ivan had forgotten his report, and would give it the next day. After a milliongazillion hours, I was finally home. Uh-oh. Bad news. More Ivan. Mom said that we’re going to his house for dinner and some other stuff. I wasn’t really listening. Five days later..... I woke up with a start. It was finally here! I jumped out of bed, sprinted down the hall, and pounced on my presents. Wait, what? Oh, wrong story. This year Thanksgiving was on a Saturday, so I slept all day. I planned to sleep in Ivan’s bathtub until his little dinner was over. “Sweetie!!! Time to go to your little friend Ivan’s house !!!” (She calls him my little friend, but he’s just the opposite.) After we got to Ivan’s house (if you can call it that) we

went to knock at their door. Before Mom even got close enough to raise her fist the door swung wide open. The house smelled like wet dog and the Mc Donald’s Play-Place room. I got a glance at Ivan running up the stairs and slamming the door to his room as his mom opened the door. She had big, round glasses and way too much makeup and perfume. “Oh! Why isn’t it sweet little Robin! You’re growing up so fast, aren’t you?” She didn’t wait for my answer. “You’re almost nine, aren’t you ?” No ma’am, I’m eleven, I mumbled. “Oh, I’m SO sorry, darling!!! Now why don’t you and mommy come in? You look so cold !!” (It’s about time) I head for the bathroom , but change plans when I see the mold growing on their sink. Since operation bathtub failed, I started off to the kitchen for a snack. Unfortunately, everything there was totally unfamiliar , so I snuck over to the fridge and looked in. Jello !!!!

I snatched up a few cubes and stuffed them into my mouth. When the food was in, I knew I had made a mistake. The only human thing in this whole alien house, and it had to be a forgery. Ugh. There goes entertainment plan B. WOW. This is even more boring than I thought. Well, I’d better make the best of it. After going over a long list of unappealing things to do in my head, I finally decided to explore their house. I started with the backyard. There I saw a strange fenced-in area, so, without thinking I went in. I was still very tired, so I wasn’t really looking where I was going. Suddenly I felt myself getting pulled in from somewhere as big gusts of wind rushed around me. After that everything went black, though I had not fainted. The wind stopped. Everything was still.

TO BE CONTINUED

“Cleft” (continued) by Gwyneth Walker

Abigail led Silver over to the others and let Emily pet Silver Satin. “Well, would you guys like to start your lesson?” Lauren asked. The girls both said yes, so they walked into the barn to get Emily’s horse, Misty Jewel, and to saddle up. Then when they were both mounted and ready to go, Lauren led them to the outdoor ring. “Now that you have a new horse Abigail, you’ll have to start on some miner jumps so that you and Silver Satin can get used to

each other. Emily, you and Misty can be working on last week’s jumps until I can come show you how to jump a hedge.” Lauren explained.

~

The girls were exhausted after working with the horses and Lauren for an hour. “Wow that was the best lesson ever!” exclaimed Abigail as she and Emily hosed down the horses afterward. “I

know I can’t believe that you got a new horse!” Emily said. When they finished, Abigail called her mom to come pick them both up. Another great thing was that Emily was spending the night with Abigail! That meant that they could talk about everything and anything they wanted to without anyone knowing. When Mrs. Hennock pulled up, the girls threw their things in the trunk and then hopped in... (to be continued).

QUEST

at

The Covenant School



Editor-in-Chief: Mrs. Ahlbin

THE COVENANT SCHOOL SCRIPTURE

“In whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the
Father through him.... And whatever
you do, work heartily as for the Lord,
and not for men.”

Colossians 3:17, 23

Truth for Christ and the Church

thecovenantschool.com

Wacky Weather Report by Ian Bradley

Today we will have some marshmallow (snow) with some scattered hot chocolate showers. Tomorrow there will be a chance of cotton candy clouds blotting out the sun. Scheduled for the week we have some isolated hot cocoa showers and maybe some more marshmallows!



“Elfie Macy’s Horse of a Ride” by Suzanne Short



Hi I’m Elfie Macy. The elves call me Elfie, but this story is about me and Dasher. Well we were in America, delivering toys when out of nowhere something struck dasher, and he turned into a baby again I went down with him. Santa said I was a very brave elf, though to tell the truth, I was terrified! I was falling after a reindeer

two hundred miles high. Dasher was alright with the falling part, but when he saw me screaming he started screaming. I saw that we were getting close to the ground so I closed my eyes and waited to hit ground.

& & &

I opened my eyes when I thumped on to something soft. I had landed in a pillow factory and Dasher was fast asleep, so I closed my eyes and went to sleep.

& & &

When I opened my eyes I didn’t see Dasher! We were thousands of miles away from home, and I lose a reindeer! How does that happen?!

What’s Hot and What’s Cold “Christmas Edition” by Gwyneth Walker

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Comparisons</u>	<u>Hot</u>	<u>Cold</u>
Christmas Songs	Jingle Bells or Frosty the Snowman	Jingle Bells-14	Frosty the Snowman-12
Game Systems	X-Box or Wii	X-Box-15	Wii-10
i-Pod Apps	Angry Birds or Cut the Rope	Angry Birds-18	Cut the Rope-14
Christmas Cookies	Gingerbread or Sugar Cookie	Gingerbread-17	Sugar Cookie-12
Christmas Characters	Santa Claus or Frosty	Santa-15	Frosty-12
Nativity Characters	The Shepherds or the Wisemen	Shepherds-16	Wisemen-8
Christmas Colors	Red or Green	Red-17	Green-10
Tree Decorations	Christmas Lights or Ornaments	Lights-16	Ornaments-13
Winter Apparel	Sweatshirts or Sweaters	Sweatshirts-23	Sweaters-3
Christmas Clothing	Mittens or Hats	Hats-19	Mittens-9