



THE COVENANT SCHOOL

KNIGHTLY NEWS

January 6, 2012

Dear Covenant School Families and Friends,

Happy New Year! The faculty and staff are very excited about the opportunities of this second academic semester, and we will strive to ensure our students achieve their learning objectives. I am very optimistic about the future of our school as we continue to grow and to succeed! These are just some of the accomplishments our school community has achieved over the last year:

- We celebrated the school's 10-year anniversary and graduated our fourth sixth-grade class;
- We earned dual re-accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and from the Southern Association of Independent Schools;
- We created the Quest Program to serve the academic needs of all our students;
- We established The Covenant School Enrichment Academy to expand extracurricular activities and fine arts instruction;
- We created a mobile laptop lab for all students;
- We added an Assistant Head of School/Athletic Director, a Director of Technology, a Director of Marketing, and a Quest Coordinator;
- We expanded the Foundations and Frameworks reading program, the Spanish curriculum, and Bible instruction, and added a new social studies curriculum;
- We provided student service opportunities through our Order of St. Lazarus, support of the Belize Presbyterian Day School, and collaboration with Covenant Presbyterian Church missions;
- We added special chapel experiences for the fifth and sixth graders with our Upper School Boot Camp and Christian Leadership sessions;
- We participated in faculty development training regarding brain research, teaching gifted students, Biblical worldview, instructional technology, and math curriculum;
- We implemented RenWeb online database services for our records and communication;
- We registered our families through the FACTS Tuition Management service;
- We designed a new athletic logo and increased our marketing strategies;
- We created a new admissions office, music room, Bible classroom, Spanish classroom and Quest room;
- We raised record totals through our Annual Fund, Auction, and Book Fair;
- We enrolled our largest sixth-grade class in our school's history;
- We commissioned our school alma mater, named our school mascot Sir-Learns-a-Lot, established an all-school scripture, and published our first issues of a student newsletter.

Many more exciting plans and goals are coming! Thank you for helping the faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees promote our school mission and vision.

"We're lovin' it at Covenant!"
--Dr. Graham

FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

Thursday, January 12

6:00- 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Student Council.

Brentwood Skate Center

\$5 per skater includes skate rental

COAT DRIVE

The Student Council will be collecting donated coats from our students and families next week, January 9-13. The coats will go to The Little Pantry That Could which serves the West Nashville neighborhoods off Charlotte Avenue. They have many clients who are in need as the temperatures continue to fall. Please check your closets for coats you no longer need and consider bringing them to school next week. There will be a box available in the reception area for the coats.



SAVE THE DATE!

An Evening To Cherish

FEBRUARY 11, 2012

Just before Valentine's Day, this promises to be an incredible evening for all the girls at the Covenant School. It will be a time for daughters and dads (or a father figure if the dad cannot participate) to spend time together over dinner and a dance.

Fathers – please go to

http://www.thecovenantschool.com/Father_Daughter_Dance_%28AllenArnold%29.m4a

(it's on the website under "announcements") for an important audio message about the purpose of this evening...as well as your essential role. The goal isn't simply a fun party – but rather for every girl to know just how special and cherished she is. Each girl will be invited by her dad or father figure to a special dinner of the dad's choosing and then a dance in the fellowship hall at TCS with DJ, party pictures, and more. Look for an important envelope in your daughter's Friday folder this week! Please mark the date for an Evening to Cherish!

ENRICHMENT ACADEMY

Spring Schedule

CHESS Club begins THIS Thursday, January 5. All other Enrichments begin NEXT week, beginning January 9.

Parent meeting this Friday, 8:30 a.m. or 2:15pm for those who have 3rd-6th grade students interested in **PERCUSSION CLASSES:**

Tuesday Class for Grades 3 & 4 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. beginning January 9

Tuesday Class for Grades 5 & 6, 4:00-5:00 p.m. beginning February 14 (after basketball season)

We will discuss cost of required practice kit and Fee Schedule which will be determined by number of students in class (min. of 3/max of 6)

Other Spring Semester Enrichment Opportunities/Changes:

No openings are presently available for the 3pm Monday DANCE class for Grades 1-3

Monday 4:00-5:00 p.m. DANCE class for Grades 4-6

This class begins after basketball season concludes (February 27 thru April 30)

Spring Tuition—\$80

Monday, 3:00-4:00 p.m. WRITERS workshop for Grades 2-6 (January 9 thru March 12)

Tuition— \$50

Tuesday, 3:00-4:00 p.m. DRAMA workshop for Grades 2-6 (January 10 thru February 28) Tuition, \$40

Tuesday, 3:00-4:00 p.m. TCS CHOIR for Grades 2-6 (March/April/May)

Tuition—\$20

Wednesday 8:30-9:15 a.m. MUSIC FUN! class for 2-4yr old w/ parent (Feb/Mar/Apr)

Tuition—\$150

Monday openings now available for private instruction in piano, violin, cello (guitar, T/TH only) Semester tuition, \$375 for 15 lessons

Limited openings available on Tues/Thursdays for instruction in piano, violin, cello & guitar

Semester tuition—\$375 for 15 lessons

Remember: All Enrichment Academy fees are due on the first day of class.

Please contact mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com with questions

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING STUDENTS' USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Dear Parents,

Over the Christmas break numerous students received e-readers and other handheld electronics as gifts. As a school, we want you to know that we encourage these devices as a way to engage students in reading and for other educational uses at home. **However, the current school policy is that students are not permitted to bring electronic devices to school.**

Our school technology committee is working on a plan to incorporate items such as Kindles, Nooks, and I pads into our classroom instruction. We realize the benefits of these devices and the opportunities they present to the emerging reader. Unfortunately, problems may arise when students use their own personal devices at school.

First, we want to protect the investment of those who purchased these devices from any damage or loss that may occur on campus. Though many of these devices may be purchased at an affordable price, several cost hundreds of dollars and would be more difficult to replace. Furthermore, monitoring the students' use and handling of the devices creates additional responsibilities for the teachers.

Secondly, while we want to encourage all kinds of reading opportunities, we do not want an educational tool to be available to some students but not to others at school. Eventually, the school would like to purchase devices to be made available to any teacher and student through our computer lab, library, and Quest program.

Lastly, we encourage the use of these devices for educational purposes at home and during tutoring sessions. Please encourage your children to use these tools to read silently, to read aloud, and to read together with you or a tutor.

Please know that the faculty and administration continually strive to develop our students' technological and literary skills. We look forward to expanding the use of technological tools for the implementation of our curriculum and for our students' educational enrichment. Thank you for your support.

— Taylor Clement

PHOTOS NEEDED

This semester we have many new and exciting projects happening at TCS, many of which require us to use photos. So many of you are always at chapel or another TCS event with a camera in hand and would love for you to share your quality photos with us. If you have a photo, or take a photo in the future that you would like to share with us please send that photo to: photos@thecovenantschool.com. You may see it on our Facebook, Twitter feed, or our website!