



THE COVENANT SCHOOL

# KnightlyNews

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

## Dear Covenant Families and Friends,

This edition of *Knightly News* features the exciting introduction of our new **TCS Enrichment Academy!** We have created an after-school program of activities so that students may pursue their extra-curricular interests. The Academy features popular activities from last year such as **TCS Choir, Chess Club, and Knight Writers (writing club)**. We've also added **TCS Dance! (dance class), Drama Knights (drama club), and Instrumental Music Study in piano, guitar, and strings**. For our younger Covenant children (ages 2-4) we are offering **Music Fun!**—a music and movement class that a child and parent may experience together. We appreciate the teachers and staff who will be the sponsors and instructors for our Enrichment Academy, and we especially appreciate the leadership of Mrs. Mary Magyar in organizing the Academy.

Another way we include enrichment programming is through our **Quest Program** with Mrs. Holly Ahlbin, our Quest Coordinator. She is planning special academic experiences to enhance our curriculum. In addition, all the students participate in **musical productions**, and they have so much fun learning to work together to accomplish their goals through performance under the direction of Mrs. Magyar. Mr. Taylor Clement, our Athletic Director, will be expanding our **athletic opportunities** this year. We have already established our cross country and basketball programs, and we look forward to additional sports activities in the spring. Through the **Student Council, the Order of St. Lazarus (6th-grade service group), and school-wide service projects**, our students will learn and grow through serving others, recognizing the needs of others, and showing thankfulness for our many blessings.

We hope that you and your children will participate in enrichment activities that will enhance the students' education and strengthen our school community!

***"We're lovin' it at Covenant!"***

***--Dr. Graham***

## You're Invited to PARENTS' NIGHT on Thursday, September 8!

You will not want to miss **Parents' Night** this Thursday, Sept. 8, 6:00-7:30 pm. This is a special evening for parents only that will begin with a program in the Fellowship Hall and feature grade level meetings with your children's teachers. Highlights include the Parent Association update about school events, an address by our chair of the Board of Trustees, a performance by our new TCS Enrichment Academy music instructors, and more! **We would love both moms and dads to attend if possible, and bring your calendars so that you may schedule your Parent-Teacher conference, class field trips, and PA school events.** We'd like to encourage our current parents to invite new school parents out to dinner before the program or even just to meet you a bit early at the Fellowship Hall for fellowship. Learn more about our school community and your child's school experience!

## TCS TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: PASTOR MATTHEW SULLIVAN

We love Pastor Matthew Sullivan, and we are so thankful that he has served as Director of Campus Life and Bible Teacher at the Covenant School since August 2010. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University in Oxford, OH, and received his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston. He moved to Nashville in 1999 and has served in two Presbyterian churches in the city. His roles have included Pastor of Missions and Outreach and church planter. Pastor Sullivan has been married to Andrea for seventeen years and they have four children: Aidan (14), Jack (12), Maggie (9) and Nora (8). They live in the Edgehill/Music Row neighborhood with their dog, Lacey.

Pastor Sullivan helps to lead our all-school chapels each morning, where the entire student body engages in worship of the Lord through songs, prayers, Scripture memorization, and a brief lesson and application of Biblical truth. Chapel serves as a unifying time for all of our grades and allows our school family to remember the true purpose of why we are here. One special chapel memory from last year was the student drama performance of David's battle against Goliath. The giant Goliath was played by Mr. Anthony McGowan of our church facilities staff, and great was his fall when David hurled the rock! Students from every grade level come to the Bible Room twice a week for Bible class. This is a time for students to engage with a particular portion of the Scripture. Our upper grades are being held to a higher standard in Bible class, and they are given homework and quizzes throughout the year to communicate that we take seriously our responsibility to be "students of the Word."

As you might expect, spending time in God's Word with young people always yields great stories! For example, the fourth grade has just started working through the life of Joseph. The class saw how Joseph's father, Jacob, had created a difficult situation in his family by showing such favoritism toward Joseph, at the expense of his many brothers. One of the students was anxious to raise her hand and state, "I know how this story goes! God still uses this situation for His glory, even though the father played favorites with his sons!" Pastor Sullivan has plenty of stories of how our students have been and are being shaped by the Word of God.

## VOTE FOR OUR SCHOOL AS "BEST IN NASHVILLE"!

The *Nashville Scene* is conducting its annual readers' poll, and you may vote for TCS as *The Best Elementary School* as well as vote for your favorite TCS teacher. Follow the voting instructions below; you will have to fill out the complete ballot to register your vote. You may vote daily through Sept. 16!

1. Go to <http://ww2.nashvillescene.com/promotions/>
2. Under the **Kids** category, vote for The Covenant School in the *Best Elementary School* category.
3. Vote in 19 more categories and then click **Submit Your Ballot** on the left-hand side.

## FIRST-GRADE ADVENTURES

The first grade classes are off to a fantastic start! Both Miss Storey and Miss Snowden are very impressed with their students—they have jumped right in and learned how to incorporate elements of weather, math and calendar skills into our daily routines. We are creating a bar graph which tracks the daily morning temperature throughout each month and also making a daily attendance tally chart. Students are also fine-tuning their visual discrimination skills as they do various readiness activities preparing for a year full of fun Spelling lessons! We are definitely learning that every letter matters! Excellent work, 1st graders!

## STUDENT SCREENINGS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Covenant School is pleased to offer parents the opportunity to schedule a screening for your children with learning specialists from **Word of Mouth Speech and Learning Associates**. On Parents' Night you may pick up information to register for a screening if you believe that your child needs additional assistance with speech, language, occupational therapy, or learning challenges. Screening fees (payable to Word of Mouth) should be submitted with registration. If you are not sure if your child should be screened, please consult with your child's current teacher as well as last year's teacher. **The screenings will be scheduled here at the school on Sept. 12-13.**

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS



Thank you to all of the PA Team Leaders who attended the Parents Association coffee Wednesday morning. We are excited about all of this school year's activities and opportunities for all to serve our school and children. We would love for each of you to become involved so please let a PA Board member know of any special areas of interest or talents you have!!

Leigh Ann Portale, President  
Faith Murphy, President-Elect  
Remy Morrow, Former President  
Leslie Bradley, Treasurer  
Allison Musso, Treasurer-Elect  
Dawn Looney, Member at Large  
Elise Buller, Member at Large  
Kim Sanderson, Secretary



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**September 25, 2011**

### Covenant Family Picnic

**4:30-6:00 p.m.**  
(outside near Fellowship Hall)  
**\*please note change of date**

**Volunteers are needed!**  
Please contact Jamie Reardon at [jamie.reardon@att.net](mailto:jamie.reardon@att.net) if you can help.



The Covenant School invites you to  
**"Serve it Up"** at the  
**Second Annual Tennis Round Robin**  
**Men's and Women's Divisions**

**Saturday, September 24th**  
**9 am - 1 pm**  
**Richland Country Club**

\$50 to play and lunch  
Register by Wednesday, September 14th  
\*Prizes will be awarded!  
\*All levels of play are welcome!

To register: Contact Stacy Johnson at  
[bsw1025@comcast.net](mailto:bsw1025@comcast.net)  
\*Proceeds benefit the faculty and students of The  
Covenant School.  
\*Co-chairs: Stacy Johnson, Ann Moore and  
Kelly Weninger  
**See you on the Courts!**



PA Event Leaders met for their annual Leadership Coffee on Wednesday to kick off the school year events. Be sure to get involved in your favorite events by signing up at Parents' Night Thursday, September 8 or contact Leigh Ann Portale at [laportale@comcast.net](mailto:laportale@comcast.net) to get involved.

## TCS ENRICHMENT ACADEMY

### **TCS DANCE!** for Grades 1-3 (*Limit 11 students*)

Mondays, 3:00-4:00 p.m. (*beginning September 12*)

Fall Session: Sept. 12 -- Dec.12      Spring Session: Jan. 9 -- April 30

Instructor: Becky Sullivan      Location: Music Room 225

Fee: \$120 for each 12-week session

For further info & to register, contact [mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com)

### **TCS CHOIR** for Grades 2-6

Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m. (*beginning September 13*)

Fall Session: Sept/Oct/Nov      Spring Session: Mar/Apr/May

Instructor: Mary Magyar      Location: Music Room 225

Fee: \$20 per Fall & Spring session to cover cost of music

To register, contact [mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com)

### **DRAMA "KNIGHTS"** (*minimum of 6 /maximum of 12 students for this creative workshop*)

Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m.      For Grades 2-6

Fee: \$40      8-week workshop: Jan. 10 -- Feb. 28

Instructor: Desha Wiseman      Location: Music Room 225

To register, contact [mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com)

### **CHESS CLUB** for Grades 2-6

Every Thursday, 3:00-4:00 p.m. (*beginning September 15*)

Instructor: Dr. Jim Lech      Location: Science Lab

Fee: \$150      Dates: September 15 – May (TBA)

To register, contact [msullivan@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:msullivan@thecovenantschool.com)

### **"KNIGHT" WRITERS** for Grades 2-6 (*maximum, 20 students*)

Mondays, 3:00-4:00 p.m.      Dates: January 9 – March 12

Fee: \$50      Location: Room 204 (5<sup>th</sup>-grade classroom)

To register, contact instructors: [jharris@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:jharris@thecovenantschool.com) or  
[hrector@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:hrector@thecovenantschool.com)

### **MUSIC STUDY: INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE AND MUSIC THEORY**

Individualized instrumental instruction on Tuesdays or Thursdays with TCS approved instructors in the following areas of study: Piano, Strings, Guitar

Fall Semester (*September 13 through December 9*): 12 weeks of instruction

Spring Semester (*January 10 through May 17*): 18 weeks of instruction

For registration, fees, and instructor guidelines, please contact [mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com)

Instructors will be introduced at Parents' Night on Thursday, September 8, 6:00 p.m.

**MUSIC FUN! Class** for 2-4 yr. olds & a parent is designed to explore music, movement and literature through a variety of activities that promotes school readiness.

Wednesdays, 10:00-10:45 a.m. (*September 14 through November 16*)

Instructor: Katie Speer of *The Music Staff Studio*      Location: Room 207

Fee: \$130 includes tuition for 10-week session and home kit

*\*Home Kit includes musical instrument, music CD & booklet*

To register, contact [mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com](mailto:mmagyar@thecovenantschool.com)