



THE COVENANT SCHOOL

Knighly News

September 29, 2011

Dear Covenant School Families and Friends,

Last weekend was a wonderful one in the life of our school! The Tennis Round Robin was a great success, and I appreciate all the work of our parent coordinators Stacy Johnson, Ann Moore, and Kelley Weninger. Our Back to School picnic was filled with fun, food, and fellowship, and I am grateful to Jamie Reardon and her parent volunteers who made the event so special, especially for our new families!

This week we are conducting parent-teacher conferences, and our parents' support of the children's academic work at home is essential to our students' learning. I'd like to offer some Parent Pointers for helping your children complete their homework successfully. **Even our Upper School students need guidance to help them learn to be responsible students.** These are ways to help your child become a Star Student!

- **Design a Study Routine:** Ideally, your children should study and complete homework at the same time each day (for example, 5:00-6:00 p.m. before dinner).
- **Let your child create a special Study Space:** Your children should choose a special spot at home (with a favorite chair/pillow/window/ lamp) and furnish the Study Space with all the needed tools and materials for studying—pencils, pencil sharpener, paper, calculator, ruler, dictionary, etc.
- **Check your child's homework planner and folder for assignments:** Make sure your child is writing down the homework assignments each day. Ask your child to identify for you each assignment that must be completed.
- **Review the completed assignments** with your children and prompt them to find their errors. For example, you may say, "Read that third sentence aloud and tell me if you find a mistake. . . . Now how could you correct that?" Try to be a coach rather than an editor!
- **Check each assignment to make sure that it is legible and complete:** Sometimes students may rush through their work, misread directions, miss parts of the assignment, or write unclearly. The work should be complete, correct, neat, and legible. You may have to ask your children to rewrite an assignment that is not well done.
- **Make sure your child has a designated place in the binder or backpack to place completed work:** Often students complete the homework but then misplace it or leave it at home. Students should designate one place to put the homework that is to be turned in the next day.
- **Ask your child to pack his/her backpack that evening before bedtime:** Check with your child at bedtime to make sure all homework, books, and other materials have been packed for school the next day.
- **Ask your child to read aloud to you every day:** Reading well may be the most important key to school success. Even older children should read aloud every day to increase reading speed, fluency, and comprehension. Reading aloud can be done in the kitchen while you're fixing dinner, in the car on the way to ball practice, or just before you tuck them in bed. Your child can read aloud from a favorite joke book, magazine, comic strip, Bible verse, or novel.
- **Praise your child for his/her efforts:** Encourage your children's efforts to be conscientious students. Praise them for their process of completing the work as well as for their finished products. Nurture a diligent work ethic in your children—encourage them to give their best efforts!
- **Help your child get 10 hours of sleep each night:** Pediatricians and educators recommend 10 hours of sleep for children in elementary school. When they are well rested, children are more attentive in class and they have a better attitude about their class work. They also have more energy later for after-school activities and homework.
- **Feed your child a healthy breakfast:** We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and doctors suggest that protein in the morning meal helps to "jumpstart" the brain! Hungry students will not be as focused, they may have less energy, and they may be grumpy, too.

I hope you try these tips so that our children make the most of their learning each school day!

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



BOX TOPS: "CASH FOR COVENANT"

Do **YOU** want to do something really simple to help earn cash for Covenant?? It's easy, just start saving your box tops now. Get your child involved, too! Ask your child to help you look for the box tops on your favorite brands, clip them and put them in a Ziploc bag. More details on the collections to follow later....just start saving now! This could mean lots of "**Cash for Covenant**," and it's a great **FUN** family service project!!

CALLING ALL LUNCHROOM HELPERS

We have had such a wonderful response—all of September has been filled and we now filling October! Thank you so much! If you have been waiting for a fun, quick way to volunteer at school, here is your chance. Mrs. Dupree needs lunchroom volunteers. Helpers arrive at 11:15 and are free to leave at 12:30. We now have an interactive calendar so you can check availability and sign yourself up. Here's how:

1. Go to www.thecovenantschool.com and select "parents" and then "lunch menu and helpers".
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the calendar and click on the "GoogleCalendar" icon.
3. Enter lunchroomhelpers@gmail.com as the user name.
4. Enter "tcsknights" as the password.
5. Double click on the date(s) you would like to volunteer, enter your name and close out the calendar.
6. Hit the "refresh" button on your browser (or close the website and open it again) to view that your name has been added.

Any date without a name needs a volunteer. Thank you for being part of the life of our school.

JOIN THE CHESS CLUB!

The Chess Club meets every Thursday
from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

To register contact Matthew Sullivan at
msullivan@thecovenantschool.com

2011 TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Thank you to everyone that came out to the Covenant Annual Tennis Tournament last weekend at Richland. We had a great time- beautiful weather, exciting tennis, great camaraderie and fun memories! We also express our sincere appreciation to **Stacy Johnson, Kelley Weninger and Ann Moore, Tournament Chairs**

