



THE CCS GROWLER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

March 2010



Why Christian Education? Why Covenant?

By: Mr. John Weaver, Head Administrator

As this edition of the Growler goes to print, we are in the middle of our re-enrollment period. It is an exciting time for the board and faculty as we begin preparations for next year while working to bring what has been an extremely rewarding year to a successful conclusion. It is hard to believe that in less than three months we will be graduating another class and sending them into the world as ambassadors for Christ. For our current families, it is time for you to evaluate whether or not to re-enroll your children at Covenant Christian School. We often make our decisions based on short term concerns rather than looking at God's big picture. I wanted to take this opportunity to share my thoughts on why Christian education is so important in today's society.

First, God's Word is taught at CCS. In Deuteronomy 11, God tells us we are to teach our children His Word and His ways from the time we get up until the time we lay down. This is extremely hard to do even in the best of circumstances. Since the Supreme Court kicked God out of our public schools, it is impossible to do in the public school setting. Not only do we teach His Word through Bible lessons, but it is integrated into all subject areas. Mathematics, language, history, science, and art all have their foundations in God's truth. All

truth is God's truth. The children at CCS will be given the knowledge of God in all subject areas. They will learn that being a Christian is not who we are only on Sunday, but every day and every moment.

Second, Covenant Christian School shares your values. As Christian parents, you have been raising your children in the ways of God since they were born. These values are respected and shared by the staff at CCS and are reinforced on a daily basis. Rather than worrying about what they are learning at school in an atmosphere that is hostile to God, you will have time to nurture these values and enjoy your children.

Third, contrary to public opinion, Christian school children academically outperform their public school counterparts. The national average on the Stanford Achievement Test is the 50th percentile. By comparison, students from CCS achieved an average of the 87th percentile on the Stanford Achievement Test last year. Ninety five percent of all Covenant graduates go on to attend colleges and universities around the nation.

Fourth, your children are safe. While our school is not immune from occasional "worldly" issues, the difference, I believe, is that they are met with a firm disciplinary hand. They are dealt with. Even more importantly, our students' emotional and spiritual needs are met. Politically correct and socially acceptable behaviors that are the norm in today's schools, but contrary to the Word of God, rarely surface in our school.

Fifth, your children are taught by certified teachers who love and serve the Lord. They are a personal witness and godly example to their students in both the classroom and in their personal lives. Because of smaller class sizes, they are able to devote more time to your chil-

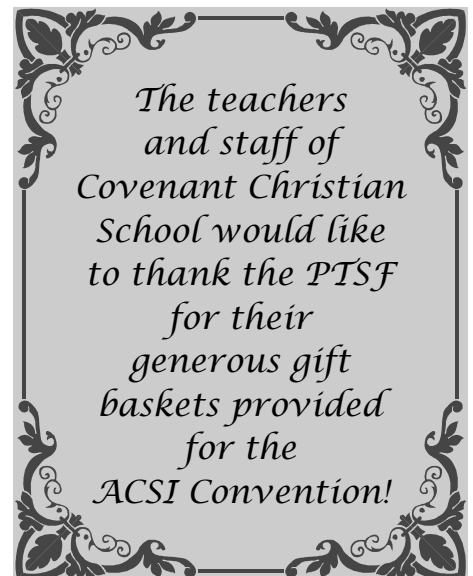
dren, not only academically, but in meeting their spiritual and emotional needs. Teachers are some of the most influential people in our children's lives; it is important that their influence is godly.

Finally, our students are successful after graduation. This year's homecoming event was an eye opener to me. It was inspiring to me to see former graduates that are now successful in business, education, and in raising families; all the while professing Christ in the environments that God has placed them.

As parents, when we make that final decision as to where our children are to be educated, we need to ask ourselves: What do I want my child to look like when they are ready to leave our home? Will they be world changers for Christ, grounded solidly in a value system that emphasizes the dignity and respect of all people? If your answer is yes, a Christian education is your only answer. †

*I have no greater joy than to hear that
my children are walking in the truth.*

3 John 1:4



What Are You Doing?

By: Mr. Begin, Secondary Principal

What are you doing?" "Ok"... "What are you doing now?"... "Good" ... "What about now?" It seems, especially from my trivial, uninformed, 'behind-the-times' world that questions like these have been the catalyst in revolutionizing an entirely new way of communicating and interacting with potentially every man, woman, and child on the face of our planet. The phenomenon is called social networking. Now, the reason I NEED to know what Joe Begonia from North Platte, Nebraska is doing right now remains an unknown, but that is apparently irrelevant. The draw or attraction is that I CAN know.

This change in communicating has really been difficult for me. In my formative years, communication seemed to be non-complicated and was not time consuming. I attribute it to my parents. Let me give you just two examples from my childhood: 1) Growing up, we had one phone in the entire house. It was in the kitchen, which opened up into the breakfast room and den, which are, historically, three of the most public areas in your average residence. Having a private conversation was virtually impossible. For the phone call which required privacy, I would, with much determination, resolve and body contortions, stretch the phone cord (phones used to have cords!) all the way to the pantry. I could have a quasi-private conversation, even though Lil' Debbie and Mrs. Butterworth were eavesdropping. Because of this, I didn't spend much time on the phone. 2) When I played outside, I would have to stay within earshot of my mother's voice. She is a small woman, but she can belt out an earth-rattling, "DOUG!!" My quick response was, "COMING" as I darted towards the house. Simple and succinct communication. No more was needed. By the way, if my response was not quick nor was it accompanied by the aforementioned darting, then things got complicated, in that my father got involved. So, as you can see, I was brought up on private, simple, 'use only if absolutely necessary' types of communication.

But change is here. Parents today

might remember life before MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, endless texting of mindless drivel, etc., but more than likely, their children and grandchildren will not. Online social networking has burst on the scene and is growing rapidly. According to a recent article in Legal/Legislative Update, "150 million people across the globe will be sharing detailed personal information on the Web and creating networks of hundreds of 'friends'" (Maegdlin, 2010). Likewise, nearly half of all adults under the age of 55 have a Facebook account. Additionally, in January of 2010 alone, 58.5 million different, information-starved people, teeming with fun facts to know and tell about themselves, visited MySpace.

The question is, "What does CCS do with this information"? (A) Ignore it, (B) Denounce it, or (C) Use it? Clearly, it is answer choice A. No, just kidding. I think we must use it, even though it is new and different and very few truly care what Joe Begonia is really doing. In fact, CCS is using it. Mrs. Gayle Martin, our Admissions Director, has created a Facebook account for the school. We even have "friends"!!!

At times, social networking is a two-edged sword. Many blogs, updates, excerpts, etc. that are posted on these networks contain inappropriate language and content. Many are fraught with gossip, slander, malice toward someone or something. Maintaining the integrity of a site is always going to be an issue, which requires the employment of a site manager. This manager will need to carefully moderate any online community that CCS established to ensure a high measure of integrity. The other side of the sword is where CCS could see a benefit. If the statistics are correct, then it is safe to assume that our families are familiar with many of the sites mentioned above. Furthermore, developing our own site will not replace traditional forms of communicating, but will enhance them. Social networking sites are free, fast, easy to circulate and effective in leading the visitors to our website. A site can not only be an interesting forum to share ideas, but it can be a productive marketing tool.

Social networking is expanding our communities and can be used as an interesting ministry tool. This technology is essentially changing how people interact with one another. In fact, instead of stepping out on the front porch and yell-

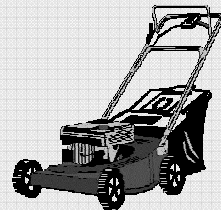
ing for my son to come home, I just send him a text. In all caps, of course!✚

Maegdlin, Steve. "Online Social Networking." Legal Legislative Update, Vol. 20, Issue 2. Winter 2009/2010.

Dedication Dugout

By: Jonathan Bitgood, Staff Reporter

The bleachers reflect the sun as it shines down on a nicely manicured field. The dirt is raked and smoothed out. The dugout has been cleared of debris and trash. This landscaped perfection is not natural, but the result of a score of hardworking players and their parents. Recently, the members of the baseball and softball teams worked together to clean up the baseball fields by mowing the grass, moving fresh dirt, edging the grass, and cleaning up the dugouts. Varsity baseball coach, Mr. Allen, said this about the turnout, "I'm so proud of my players and their parents for showing up and doing some great work." Josh Hansen, who is rumored to be such a dangerous hitter that he even gets intentional walks in batting practice, said, "It was great seeing the dedication and hard work; I just hope that enthusiasm will translate to our training and make for a great season." Hopes and expectations are rising for this year's teams. ✚



Book Fair

By: Linda Tatko, Librarian

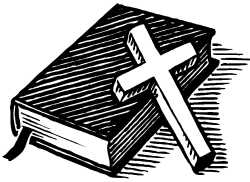
The library staff would like to thank all the students and parents who supported the 2009 book fair. Because of your participation, it was another successful sale. We will continue to use the profits to upgrade the library for all to enjoy.

The Used Book Sale is coming soon. This year's Spring Used Book Sale will be held in the library on May 4-7. Donations of your appropriate, gently-read books will be accepted beginning on April 26. Most items will be priced from \$.50 to \$1.00. Plan to come and pick up some bargains for summer reading for yourself and your students. ✚

Suffering and Adversity

By: Dan Miller, School Board Trustee

Job losses, disease, natural disasters, suffering, and adversity affect us all in many different ways and to many different extents. Nowhere does the Bible teach that Christians are exempt from the tribulations and natural disasters that come upon the world. Scripture does teach that the Christian can face tribulation, crisis, calamity, and personal suffering with a supernatural power that is not available to the person outside of Christ. I know that these symptoms of suffering are affecting many families here at Covenant, and they are also affecting multitudes of people outside our Covenant family.



When confronted with adversity, we might ask, "Why me? Why my family? Why is God allowing this to happen? What can possibly be His purpose in our suffering?" Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:6-8 that in the last days *You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.* Also, the Apostle Peter states in 1 Peter 4: 12-13, *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.*

I'm not saying that these are the last days, but look at what has happened in recent months. Today, we are living in an ongoing war of terrorism where our soldiers are fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have ongoing famines throughout the continents of Africa and Asia. Also, look at the floods in Peru and the terrible earthquakes of Haiti that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and have left millions homeless. More close to home, and possibly even more impacting, are the serious illnesses among the Covenant family. During these times of despair, again we might

ask, "What is God up to?" This is when we must trust in what Romans 8:28 says, *...that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.* In the case of Peru and Haiti, look at how God has sent His ambassadors to these countries not only to bring physical and medical help, but also spiritual help to these people. Also in the case of those who are suffering job losses or facing serious illnesses, I believe the principle of 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4 can encourage us in that *...the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

As bad as these times of suffering are, they allow us to draw nearer to God and to depend upon Him more. I believe He uses these circumstances to get our attention, teaching us to wait upon Him in these busy times. During these times of adversity, we in the Covenant family need to pray with due diligence for all who are affected by tribulations remembering never to despair at the suffering we are enduring. Rather remember and be encouraged by Romans 8: 35-37, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.* †

Student Council and NHS

By: Delaney Begin, Staff Reporters

The Student Council has been very successful this year in helping out others, raising funds for the school, and coming together as a student body. The last semester of school will be very busy with the calendar full of events. First, the council will have a school-wide cystic fibrosis fundraiser. Each student will be able to pay \$3.00 to come to school dressed in his favorite college outfit. All the money made on that day will be sent to a cystic fibrosis organization to help those in need. Later this spring, the council hopes to organize a spring social to end the school year with a student body event.

In other news, the National Honor Society has done a lot this year too. Cur-

Art Fundraiser

By: Renee Adams and Lynn Peverill,
CCS Art Teachers

The CCS Art Department has teamed up with Original Works – the #1 art-based program in the country – to offer a very special program. This program allows you to have your child's very own artwork, which was created under the supervision of the CCS art faculty, reproduced onto a selection of over 20 quality products. These products range from magnets, mugs, and mouse pads to t-shirts, tote bags, and tiles. The wide selection of professionally-produced, full-color products offers something for everyone. These quality products make excellent gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, grandparents, teachers, and birthdays. A percentage of the profits from this program will go to the CCS Art Department for art materials, supplies, and new technology directly benefiting the students at Covenant Christian School.



We are thrilled to be participating in this unique and innovative program. Look for a complete program, product, and pricing information coming soon.

For other product and program information as well as customer testimonials, log on to www.originalworks.com. †

rently they have teamed up with Student Council to raise change for Haiti. Money jars have been distributed to all the classrooms for the kids to put their donations in. We hope to raise a large sum of money to send to the ones in Haiti who have had such a tragic time. Our small

s c h o o l
hopes to
do some-
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The Stu-
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Honor Society hope they make an impact not just on our school, but outside our school as well. Our ultimate goal is to help others and be witnesses for Christ. †

Why Covenant?

Why Not?

A Letter from the Editor

By: Joel Jones, Staff Reporter

I have attended Covenant for the past six years and truly adore this school. Ever since arriving here in seventh grade, CCS has been like a second home to me. Like anyone who takes pride in his surroundings, I have taken pride in the integrity and reputation of my school. There have been people who have said some non-edifying things of Covenant in the past, and this has always irked me. How could someone say something negative about the place I love so much? So when Mrs. Pratt offered me an editorial on any topic, this one was not hard to choose. Here are my reasons why Covenant is the best place I could have been for the past six years:

Academically. Covenant has forced me to grow in my perception of academics and their importance. One big knock on Covenant is its lack of A.P. or dual credit courses. It saddens me when people leave a Christian environment solely for the aforementioned reason. It might just be me, but last time I checked, my God is bigger than dual credit courses, and when I leave Covenant to pursue higher education, it will be in His will. Dual credit does save money, yet for me, who lives in a three bedroom trailer whose net worth is less than most cars at Covenant, it is easy for me to see and trust that God will always provide.

Athletically. The good Lord has blessed me with the desire and an opportunity to pursue athletics in college. At the moment, I am currently looking at a few Division III schools to further my basketball playing. This was not always the case; in seventh grade, I was a whopping 5'0" and 140 pounds bearing the nickname of Joel "Jelly Roll" Jones. Right now, I am 6'1" and 180 pounds. I do not say this to brag or just randomly share facts, but to state that now I have a lot more of a basketball body than one that was more of a bowling-ball shape. In the public school system, I would have been cut a long time ago. I say this because my friends with similar body types were dealt the same fate. But now, after having four years of varsity experience and some well needed growth

spurts, I have the opportunity to pursue college athletics. Once again, my God is bigger than the main reason sports-minded people leave Covenant in that the size limits us to exposure. While that may be true, and at a public school there may have been more exposure, I would not have been given the opportunity to even play. Once again, my God is bigger.

Socially. My previous school had 500 people in my grade. I could hide and blend in with the people who were exactly like me. I was not forced to mingle with people who were different. When I came to Covenant in seventh grade, what I found was a 30 person class, and nobody even close to being like me. I was forced to adapt. Now what I possess are friends with all different interests, personalities, and dreams. Friends, that if I were in a crowd, I might not have picked, and friends who I know would definitely not have picked me. I also have blended my views on the church. When I began at Covenant, I was attending a charismatic church, since then I have visited Methodist, Baptist, Bible, Church of Christ, and Presbyterian churches with my friends. What I have concluded is that Christianity is not the rules, regulations, or rituals, but rather the relationships—the relationship with my God and the relationship with believers.

Spiritually. The best aspect of Covenant is its spiritual nature; whether it is the students, teachers, or administration, it never ceases to amaze me. Recently a grandfather of a good friend died. He still showed up to morning basketball practice and participated, but was not the same. Upon the team finding out, the group huddled and prayed for our friend. That's beautiful; that's brotherhood. I can't imagine being any closer to these guys than I am now. The teachers have helped me grow spiritually in many ways, but the following way is the most obvious. Last year and for the previous years, I was a habitual cheater on homework assignments. I was caught and dealt with, but I was dealt with carefully. I was reprimanded, but reprimanded in love. I was suspended from baseball, forced to step down from Praise Team, and was a hair away from school suspension. But, administration and teachers were with me every step of the way encouraging me and praying for me, challenging me to change. Once again, my God was bigger than the cir-

cumstances. What ensued was the feeling of Christ's love through my teachers and friends that I had never experienced. Here I was, a leader of the school, one proclaiming Christ, one worshiping in front of the student body, and I was straight face lying to everyone. I deserved nothing, but Christ's love overwhelmed me up to the point that a heart change was not only needed and desired, but inevitable. Covenant has caused me to challenge the truths learned as a child and make them my own.

I came to Covenant a little bowl of "Jelly", and I leave on a "Roll" to my future. Thanks, Covenant, for all the memories...✠

Dyeing to Be Irish

By: Hayden Lambert, Staff Reporter

St. Patrick's Day, which is officially celebrated on March 17, is a celebration of the life and lessons of Ireland's most famous saint. However, the Irish are not the only ones who get to celebrate this festive day. In fact, the United States has established many of its own traditions, which give pinching and



four-leaf clovers a run for their money—or should I say pots of gold.

The United States played a key role in making St. Patrick's Day a holiday celebrated across the world. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City in 1762. Irish soldiers serving in the English military took the day off to march through the streets in celebration of their patron saint. In 1848, the official New York City St. Patrick's Day parade began. Today, it is the largest parade in the United States and lasts over five hours.

Not to be outdone by New York, Chicago has its own tradition for March 17. In 1962, Chicago's government dyed the river green to trace illegal sewage dumping. This initial dyeing of the river not only tracked down illegal activity, but also inspired an American St. Patrick's Day tradition. Every year since, the Chicago River has been dyed green in celebration of the Irish holiday.✠

KEEP ON SHOPPING!

Scrip, our on-going fundraiser, has generated \$939.89 since the beginning of the new year. Thank you for participating.

Open House

By: Katelyn Holm, Staff Reporter

February 16 kicked off Covenant Christian School's second annual open house. Many prospective families attended in order to learn about everything that Covenant has to offer them. This year, in order to draw in new families, Covenant advertised on KSBJ, a local Christian radio station. They ran six spots over the radio, promoting the open house and encouraging new families to visit. Several families attended as a result of these advertisements.

New families interested in the 2010-2011 school year were invited to hear an overview highlighting Covenant's appeals. Then, current families joined them to hear new information regarding the upcoming school year. Mr. Weaver, head administrator, led this meeting. He showed the projected budget and discussed the tuition increase. He also covered tuition assistance. One of the focal points of the meeting was why families should choose Christian education, specifically choose Covenant. At the close of the meeting, families were invited to visit their child's prospective classrooms, where teachers gave brief overviews of that grade level.

Mr. Weaver shared the excitement of the night, "This year's open house was our most successful ever. There were over 30 new families that were excited about Covenant Christian School. Families are excited about having a Christian school presence within the Conroe community. To date, 80 families have inquired about Covenant and more than 40 tours have been given. I anticipate a significant increase of enrollment in the 2010-2011 school year."✝

Foolin' Around

By: Hayden Lambert, Staff Reporter

The senior class is currently preparing their production of *Fools* by Neil Simon, which will be presented on March 25 and 26 at a location to be announced later. The comedy centers around teacher Leon Tolchinsky (Joel Jones) who attempts to break a curse placed on the town of Kulyenchikov, Russia, and, more specifically, Sophia Zubritsky (Tori Cunningham), whom he falls in love with. The curse inhibits the townspeople's mental capabilities, and Leon must find a way to break it before he himself falls victim to the foolish ways of Kulyenchikov.

The cast also includes Delaney Begin, Jonathan Bitgood, Katelyn Killian, Hayden Lambert, Kyler Walton, Nathaniel Welch, Travis Wilson, and Connor VanSteenberg. Rachel Kotlan is serving as the Student Director.

Director Shannon Fox, who has wanted to direct this play for years, and all the students involved are looking forward to entertaining everyone who attends this hilarious event, so mark your calendars and prepare to laugh!✝



SPRING "BREAK-AWAY"

Check out what *The CCS Growler* staff is up to...

DELANEY BEGIN

sleeping in and hanging out with friends

JONATHAN BITGOOD

learning Adobe CS4 Program

MARISSA NANOS

planning a baby shower for her first niece

KATELYN HOLM

going to Spokane, WA, for volleyball qualifier

NICOLE HOWARD

going to Arizona to visit her mom

JOEL JONES

won't accomplish all he plans to

HAYDEN LAMBERT

family coming from Pennsylvania

GABBY LYNN

going fishing with her Papaul in Louisiana

MRS. PRATT

going to Branson to visit family

CONNOR VANSTEENBERG

catching up on sleep

CCS SCIENCE FAIR

March 25, 2010
CCS Gymnasium

All 3rd, 5th, 7th,
and 9th grade scientists.

The science fair will be open to the public after 2:00 p.m.



**MARCH MADNESS
EXTRAVEGANZA!**

NCAA Men's March Madness is here!
Join us in predicting the finish of the final sixteen teams.
**Pick up your sweet sixteen brackets in the front
office after Spring Break.**
**Fill them out and turn them into the office by
Thursday, March 25, at 9:00 a.m. to be eligible
for the grand prize of \$25!**

A Bright Future

By: Katelyn Holm, Staff Reporter

Junior high is a time of having fun and trying new things. It is a time to explore who you are, and develop your character. This year's junior high girls' basketball team, did just that. Rowan Harris said, "I think that at the beginning of the season, we weren't that great at working as a team, but through the games we played, we learned a lot about each other and basketball. I had a lot of fun this season."

In the final tournament at The Woodlands Prep, Covenant made a good showing. The girls lost their first game but came back with a vengeance the second game. In that game against Rosehill Christian, the girls played more competitively than they had all year, and they were rewarded with a victory. In their final game, the girls played in the championship game of the Consolation bracket. They played with a lot of heart and put up a good fight, but ended with a loss, placing second in their bracket.

The future of junior high basketball looks bright with many returning players. Next year, the girls plan on having another great season as they look to grow closer together as friends and teammates, as well as closer to their Savior. †



The Young Guns

By: Connor VanSteenberg, Staff Reporter

They might not have height, but they sure have heart. The junior high guys ended the season with an invitation-only tournament at The Woodlands Prep. The Cougars unfortunately lost their two games but showed much promise and heart as they played. The seventh graders received valuable time in the tournament, which will prepare them for next season. Coach Heldmann had this to say about the eighth graders, "Well, they will be fish sticks next year, and I am looking forward to having them in the program next year. We are having a great season this year and they will be a nice addition to the dominant seniors we are losing." The seventh grade class will return two starters, three regular substitutes, and many more who have improved greatly over the season. Good job, guys! †

Super Results!

By: Joel Jones, Staff Reporter

Super Bowl XLIV was a game to remember. The underdog Saints pulled off an improbable victory over the Indianapolis Colts and won 31-17. Quarterback Drew Brees went 32-39 for 288 yards with two touchdowns and won the MVP. At Covenant, senior Nathan Welch is our MVP, our Most Valuable Predictor, that is. Nathan won the Super Bowl contest with a guess of Saints winning 34-17. Three points off the actual score! Great guessing, Nathan! †

Spelling Bee

By: Jill Nolan, Spelling Bee Coordinator

Covenant Christian School entered six students in the ACSI District Spelling Bee held at Alpha Omega Academy in Huntsville on Friday, January 15, 2010. There were 13 schools represented at the spelling bee. The representatives from Covenant Christian School were: Angelie Aggarwal, 3rd grade, Katie Boudreaux, 4th grade, Jillian Weaver, 5th grade, Nicholas Hatcher, 6th grade, and Garrett Mayes and McLane Zaitz, 7th grade.



"BEE" sure to congratulate all who participated in representing our school at this ACSI event. Thank you to these students for taking the time and effort to study their extensive word lists, while preparing for this event. They honored God and Covenant Christian School during this competition. †

Spring Sports

By: Marissa Nanos, Staff Reporter

It is time for spring sports to start! This year CCS will be having a baseball, softball, and track team. The varsity baseball team is coached by Coach Wayne Allen. "I am looking forward to a great season. We will be having great players who have great leadership. It is going to be a tough district, but I am planning on the team doing really well," stated Coach Allen about the team. The junior high baseball team is co-coached by Coach Pratt



and Coach George Allen. For the first time in several years, CCS has a varsity softball team. The team is co-coached by Coach Banks and Coach Henry, who coached the junior high team for the past two years. The junior high softball team will now be coached by Coach O'Brien. Coach Heldmann is coaching the varsity track team while Coach Severson is coaching the junior high track team. The spring sports are going to be a fun way to end the year! †

Varsity Boys' Basketball

By: Delaney Begin, Staff Reporter

The varsity boys' basketball team is reaching the end of its season. They started out with a great record of 17-0. The district play has come to a finish, and their record didn't exactly come out as they had wished. They ended with 5 losses in district play; two to Northeast Christian School, two to Southwest Christian School, and one to Chinquapin. Those losses were a hard pill to swallow, but the boys still kept their heads up. Regardless of their losses in district, the varsity boys moved on to playoffs.

To kick it off, the team traveled to Sherman to play Texoma in the first round. In this bi-district game, the Cougar guys stepped up their game and played with a new level of intensity. The boys played as a team and worked together to pull out an impressive win. With the momentum they gained in Sherman, they hoped to continue their streak and go far into the playoffs.

Unfortunately, the boys lost their area game against Victoria Faith. The game was nothing like the guys had expected, as Tyler Holm was quickly in foul trouble. With a starter out, the guys had to pull together and change their offense. Charlie Rod gave the guys a burst of momentum with his defense and Connor VanSteenberg shot well from the outside. Even with their bright moments, the Cougars couldn't make up the 20 point deficit. Even when they were down, the varsity guys battled throughout the game and showed a lot of heart. CCS proved they weren't going down without a fight.

After the loss, there were many tears shed as seniors Joel Jones, Connor VanSteenberg, Travis Wilson, and Matt Hopkins will be missed greatly. Coach Heldmann has been very pleased with his team this year. He said, "The guys have great chemistry and great bonding. They are a talented group of guys, even though district didn't turn out the way they wanted it to, they have a lot to look back on. They have been great representatives of our Christian school." The Cougars had a great season. ☩



Photo: TRAVIS WILSON

SHOOT FOR TWO: Joel Jones battles for two points under the basket.



Photo: JOSH HANSEN

HEAD FAKE: Collin Walker fakes out the defender and heads for the hoop.

Varsity Girls' Basketball

By: Nicole Howard, Staff Reporter

The Covenant varsity girls have had a very exciting and successful season. With leadership of the three seniors Delaney Begin, Nicole Howard, and Rachel Kotlan, the girls have developed a bond of friendship throughout the season. With several returning players as well as a lot of newcomers, the team was ready for a fresh, strong start. Because the girls played many games during the pre-season, they were aptly prepared for district. As they progressed through the season, the team's talents and abilities, forged with hard work from practice, shone through vibrantly. With an undefeated record and two tournament first place titles, both Coach Walker and the girls are very proud of their success. For Delaney Begin and Nicole Howard, this success is extra special and exciting because it was the first time since junior high for them to be on a tournament-winning team, and the second time since eighth grade to be on an undefeated district team.

As the girls were thrilled about their undefeated district champion title, they were also excited to play Sacred Heart Catholic School from Hallettsville in a bi-district play-off game. Not knowing anything about the team, the Covenant girls were nervous but ready to rumble! The first half was an eye-opener; the teams were neck and neck. Coach John Walker realized the Cougars were anxious and nervous, so after an encouraging half time speech, the girls were ready to go again! After a physical, yet exciting game, the Lady Cougars pulled out with a great 68-58 victory! After lots of cheers, smiles, and hugs, the girls were surprised with a run through tunnel from all the Cougar fans.

For the girls' area playoff game, the emotions weren't as positive. After an exciting, and tiring game, the Covenant girls lost to Kerrville by a couple of points. After the game, the girls were overwhelmed with tears and a bitter-sweet speech by Coach Walker. The senior girls will be missed by Coach Walker and the other girls. Despite the outcome of the last game, Coach and the girls were very excited and pleased with their success. It was an unforgettable season for everyone involved! ☩



Photo: RACHEL KOTLAN

WELCOME HOLM: Katelyn Holm finds her home under the basket.



Photo: KATELYN KILLIAN

RUN, DON'T WALK-ER: Melissa Walker has drives the ball to the goal.

March

- 15–19 Spring break
- 22–26 Spiritual Emphasis Week
- 25 Science fair
- 25-26 Senior play at 7:00 p.m.

April

- 2–5 Easter holiday
- 8–12 CPG in New York
- 10 Right to Life Oratory Contest at CCS
- 15 School board meeting
- 16 TAPPS State Choir Competition in Belton
- 16 ACSI Art Festival at Faith Academy in Bellville
- 19 PTSF meeting
- 21 Junior high drama chapel presentation
- 22 District track meet
- 23 Junior high drama evening performance
- 26–30 SAT testing
- 29 Regional track meet

Just “STOP”ing By

By: Gabby Lynn, Staff Reporter

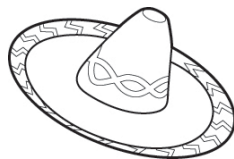
Several STOP members took time to make more than 100 Christmas cards for The Angel Tree Prison Ministry. Each card included a Christian message on the beautiful cover and was left blank inside for the incarcerated moms to write a personal message to their children as their gift to them. Mrs. Cheryl Hall, director of The Angel Tree Ministry, said, “The response to the cards was overwhelming.” She expressed gratitude on behalf of the moms who were moved to tears by the beautiful cards and the opportunity to share Christmas with their children through this effort.

STOP members continued to make a difference in December by spending an afternoon assisting an elderly couple by decorating their home for Christmas. They put lights on the tree, moved furniture, and even did some yard work! Many STOP club members volunteered individually to serve in their churches and in the community by stepping up to help wherever they are needed. STOP members continue to represent the body of Christ. ✝

Spanish Club

By: Marissa Nanos, Staff Reporter

The Spanish Club is making an impact! “I am amazed at the initiative of the students and commitment they have made,” stated Señora Miller about the students of the Spanish Club. The main goal of the Spanish Club is to develop relationships. The last



Tuesday of every month, the students go to Sam Houston Elementary School in Conroe. The students sing songs and make projects with the preschoolers in the bilingual program. In February, a reporter from the Conroe Courier came to CCS to ask about the Spanish Club. “It was great that the reporter had an opportunity to come and acknowledge Covenant’s services. Not only did it put CCS on the map, but it also displays character at Covenant as a whole,” exclaimed Matt Hopkins, president of the Spanish Club. The students are excited to continue with their ministry. Please keep them in your prayers as they reach out to the community. ✝

Honorable Art

By: Katelyn Holm, Staff Reporter

Dr. Phyllis McCully, the ACSI Associate Regional Director, contacted Covenant, requesting to display some of the artwork of Covenant students at the annual ACSI teachers’ convention in Moody Gardens, Galveston, Texas. Mrs. Adams, an art teacher at CCS, said, “This is a great way to showcase the creative, God-given gifts and talents of the CCS student body.” Students from kindergarten to twelfth grade had their artwork put on display. The artwork displayed a wide variety of art media and composition including Egyptian art, crayon work, pastels, and acrylic. This was a huge honor for the artists chosen, and all the students were very excited to have their art chosen.

KayLee Pratt, whose art was featured at the convention, said, “My torn paper city won a superior ribbon. I had a great time making it. It was exciting to get my art to go to the convention.” All the teachers and people present at the convention thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the art of Covenant’s talented students! ✝