



THE CCS GROWLER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

November 2010



Make a Difference

By: Mr. John Weaver, Head Administrator

Recently, a man whom I consider my first pastor went to be with the Lord. I came to his church, his first and only church, as a new Christian struggling with my walk. For a little over two years, he became my mentor, and my relationship with the Lord grew by leaps and bounds. Brother Leonard never traveled the mission field, built a mega-church, or worked in the slums of a major city. He dreamed of a large church, but, his congregation probably never reached more than a few hundred. After two years with Brother Leonard, we went on to a new assignment in the Air Force. I took what he taught me on into life. He pastored his church faithfully for 36 years. Upon hearing of his death, I began to read testimonies of others that he had ministered to over the years. I found that through his small church in Hampton, Virginia, he had impacted many lives just as he had mine. Those people moved to other parts of the country and world. Some became pastors, others doctors, many moms and dads. At the age of 76, many of the testimonies I read were from young people, in whom he was still making a difference. He had spread the Gospel the way God told him to—one person at a time. When he said, “I just love you,” I knew he meant it. I found in other testimonies this same common thread over and over. Leonard made a difference in many lives that reached across our country through his small ministry in a single town.

The next question that came to my mind was, “How am I making a difference for Christ?” I would like to share a few lessons I learned by watching Brother Leonard work.

- ◆ Be content. Share God’s love from the place where He has placed you. God put Leonard in a small Virginia church. He has placed me at CCS. He placed many of my Las Vegas friends in casinos. Feed the sheep in your flock, and God will reproduce. Where God guides, He provides.
- ◆ Sheep make more sheep. Sometimes we think we need to do something big for God. Programs and gimmicks are the way the world works. Leonard met with a few of us on Saturday mornings when most were still asleep. Many times God does His best work through us in an office, at a lunch, in a classroom, or while disciplining our children.
- ◆ When you say, “I love you,” mean it. This term is thrown around way too much. When we, as Christians, say this, it should be representative of the love of Christ. It should be manifest in our actions and service to those we love. The greatest gift from God is love.
- ◆ Be available. So many of us are too busy to be available to those God has placed in our lives. How many times have you been asked to serve or have seen an opportunity to serve and turned it down because you are too busy or too tired? Many pastors I have known have a private number, so they are not inundated with calls. Everyone in the church had Brother Leonard’s number.
- ◆ Understand God’s purpose for your life. As Christians, each is called to make disciples. If we are not doing this, we are not in His will. Oppor-

tunities will take different shapes for all of us, but the result God wants is the same. He wants us to share His life with others.

We have a tremendous fellowship here at Covenant Christian School and a tremendous responsibility. The mission field is not just the student, but teachers, the family, friends, and friends of friends. When we are faithful to God’s calling in our small little world, we will impact the greater world. **How are you making a difference?!**

Blessed

By: Becca Lewis, November Editor

Football, turkey, and mom’s scrumptious dressing
Important time to fellowship with family and friends
Each aspect of this day is God’s amazing blessing
We never want these moments to end

We gather together to celebrate
A time to give thanks for all that we hold
The laughter and life given by God to appreciate
Treasured memories written on our hearts so bold

On this day, it is important to be thankful
For the moments in life, whether big or small
Praise God for all He has done and be joyful
Because He continues to bless us all

So on this day of thanks, I think you know what to do
God has given us many moments in this life we are living
So greatly appreciate all that he has done for you.
Enjoy each and every blessing and have a happy Thanksgiving!

There's a Test Today?

By: Andy Penland, Secondary Principal

As I sit and write this article, a number of sophomores and juniors are only a few days away from taking the PSAT. The PSAT is a preliminary SAT exam that allows students to see how prepared they are (or how unprepared they are) for taking the real SAT. The test generally lasts three hours, and students are subjected to a variety of English and math questions ranging in difficulty. Anyone out there reading this article may remember taking the SAT or other similar college entrance exams before graduating from high school. If so, you may also remember how some questions made you think, "This college stuff is easy!" Others made you walk out with your head spinning and thinking, "I can't believe these people made a test using every vocabulary word I have never heard of."

As a Christian, I often wish Jesus would start each day giving me a PTOF (Preliminary Test of Faith) to prepare my heart, mind, and soul for living a life that exudes His glory and keeps me joyful. I envision such a test going something like this:

Jesus, "Okay, Andy, are you ready for your daily PTOF?"

I start to get nervous, "Is that a warm-up question, or is this the actual first question?"

"Relax and remember you can do all things, including this test, through Me," Jesus would reply.

"Okay, but just for the record, I'm a little anxious, so can we stop and have You pray for me before we begin?"

"I have been praying for you, Andy, without ceasing."

"Right. Okay, bring it on!"

Jesus would begin again, "Do you love Me, Andy?"

"I know this one. I know this one... don't screw this up like Peter...FEED YOUR SHEEP!" I would exclaim confidently.

"Are you even listening to the question?"

"Yes, Jesus, You asked me if I loved You, and the Bible says when You ask this question the proper response is to feed Your sheep. Did I get it wrong?"

Jesus would lean back in His chair and just stare at me for a minute or two. His gaze alone would penetrate my thoughts and emotions and invoke brokenness in my soul. Finally, I would have to break the silence, "Jesus, are You upset with me?"

"No, I am just waiting for you to answer the question with your life. You know all about how I loved people from reading the Bible, but anyone can read about that and verbally get the question right. I am waiting to see what you do out there. When your enemy curses you, will you bless them? When your children disobey you, will you explode in anger or lovingly discipline them? Will you tell your neighbors and coworkers about Me? Will you spend time praying for all those people at church whom you told, 'I'm praying for you'? Will you confess and surrender your idol of comfort? Will you..."

I graciously interrupt, "Okay, Jesus, I think I am beginning to understand. I know what I am supposed to do, and if I am willing to do these things, then You will know how much I love You."

Jesus would just smile, open the door, and say, "Get out there, Tiger, and let your light so shine before men that they will know I am real and living in you."

"Okay, Jesus, deal! But, I must ask one more question...do fire ants really bring You glory because they just seem really annoying. And while I am on the topic of annoying, can You give me some advice on how to stop...Jesus... Jesus...can You slow down a little bit? You are walking awfully fast all of a sudden!"

science, math or history, English or yearbook, there is only one truth and all pure and accurate knowledge leads in His direction. An education that is based on God's truth and incorporates the temporal wisdom and knowledge of this world will serve our children immediately and throughout this life. More importantly, it will have an eternal impact on them, their families, and all of their relationships (Psalm 96:13).

Jehovah-Jireh,
please continue to bless Covenant.
El Shaddai,
please continue to protect Covenant.

*They will sing before the LORD,
for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world
in righteousness
and the peoples in his truth.*

Psalm 96:13

Board Corner

By: David Hargrave, School Board Treasurer

As I contemplated what to write knowing parents, teachers, administrators, students, and other family members would likely read this, it struck me how blessed Covenant is in our leadership, our location, and our Lord.

- **Leadership** – Covenant is being led by a man who loves God and has a passionate vision that all children need a Christian education to be able to manage their way through this world. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with John Weaver during times when this subject is being discussed and am continually impressed and strengthened by his direction. Additionally, our teachers and staff are incredible leaders with varying gifts that have been ordained by God to care for and instruct our children. Finally, the parents of Covenant children are

remarkable. They lead their families, and they participate in numbers and ways that would make any school envious (Romans 12:8).

- **Location** – By God's providence and sovereignty, Covenant purchased 35 acres "way north" off Interstate 45 over ten years ago. Since that purchase, The Woodlands, Conroe, and Montgomery County have grown at greater than 50%. The Department of Transportation is currently constructing an off ramp from I-45 South that will directly feed onto the access road just north of Covenant's entrance. Our monument sign and our banner facing I-45 has the potential of being seen by over 88,000 vehicles daily. By 2035, it is estimated to be 140,000 daily. Only God could have found this location (Numbers 14:6-9).
- **Lord** – Finally, and most importantly, all truth is God's truth. Whether studying Spanish or

Psalm 96:13

Over the River and Through the Woods

Forest Glen

By: Rebecca Stanley, Staff Reporter

From October 6 through 8, our Covenant Christian School freshman and sophomores went to Camp Forest Glen. For the first year in CCS history, the underclassmen stayed at the Rosebud Campus. This location was a nice change, giving the students a new environment to enjoy. There they bonded with each other and grew closer to God. For free time, they swam, jumped on the blob, did archery, canoed, and, for those who were brave enough, participated in the ropes course and rock climbing. They also enjoyed playing basketball, volleyball, soccer, carpet ball, and gaga ball (Israeli dodge ball). Every morning before a delicious breakfast, they had devotionals; every night a camp counselor would preach. On the last night, they sat around a campfire and ate s'mores while listening to a sermon.

Rowan Harris, a freshman, said, "Camp was fun, and gaga ball was my favorite. I really liked the night trails where we experienced God's creation. The food was disgusting, but I had fun eating it. I also really loved chubby bunnies (stuffing as many marshmallows into your mouth as you can)!" Everyone enjoyed the break from school, but also the chance to grow closer to God through devotionals and to one another with team building exercises. 🍷



Photo: SHANNON DEBOERG

BOAT BUDDIES: Sophomores Ryan Bates and Parker Zaitz build their friendship with a canoeing expedition at Forest Glen.

Frontier Camp

By: Seth Fox, Staff Reporter

Starting with a long, cramped drive out to the middle of nowhere, junior high camp began. Junior high camp was a great time for bonding and growing close as a class. This year, the junior high spent their time at Frontier Camp in Grapeland, Texas. Not only did the students get to miss two and a half days of school, but junior high also had the privilege of spending those two and a half days hanging out and playing with good friends. There were a lot of physical and mental activities at Frontier Camp. These included rock climbing, fossil hunting, and riding the water weenie. Free time was spent playing soccer, basketball, football, ping pong, and the always intense and wild, gaga ball. What more could a young soul want?

But wait, there's more! Frontier Camp also provides three great square meals a day and cool biblical lessons around every corner. When asked what he thought of camp, Luke Fox plainly said, "Camp was awesome, and it was really fun to play gaga ball." The teachers also agreed, saying, "It was great, and the behavior was good which made for a lot of fun." Ms. Severson added, "The weather was really nice and it was cool to see the bonding of the classes, and the activities were really good as well." 🍷



Carolina Creek

By: Kaitlyn Weir, Staff Reporter

This past October, the juniors and seniors went on their annual camping trip to Carolina Creek. The main goal of the junior and senior camp is for the students to develop into well-prepared, godly young adults. This is perfect preparation, as the upperclassman will soon be leaving high school and moving on to the college world. Adam Tyson, the youth pastor at Lakeside Bible Church, was the camp speaker. The students heard ten sermons, all filled with powerful messages about biblical evangelism. During these messages, the students learned how to boldly approach those who need Christ.

Adam Tyson taught the foundations of biblical evangelism which are: motivation, message, and method. The message and the method that believers use comes from understanding God's command for people to love and obey Him. God commands believers to share His Word with those far from us and to those around us. Senior Katelyn Holm said, "Camp was a blast! I really enjoyed the topic of biblical evangelism because I think it will be so applicable in the next few years. It was great to fellowship with the juniors and seniors and bond even more before I graduate!" Overall, the juniors and seniors had a wonderful time at camp and will use the evangelism strategies they learned for the rest of their lives. 🍷



Photo: CHELSEA ROLLINS

REMEMBERING THE OLD DAYS: The seniors gather at the lake to pose for one last picture.

Madagascar Roaches + Pre-k= Good Field Trip

By: Tyler Holm, Staff Reporter

The pre-kindergarten classes took a wonderful field trip to the Woodlands Children Museum. They had fun and learned a lot while they were there. At the Woodlands Children Museum, the kids were able to do two science experiments, get their faces painted, play in the learning center, and even touch a Madagascar roach!

The pre-kindergarteners did a color explosion experiment where they learned how detergents are able to remove the dirt and filth from dishes. They also did the dancing raisin experiment where they put raisins in ginger ale and watched them as they floated to the top. After they got their mad scientist on, they met the crazy critter lady who taught them about and even let them touch a Madagascar roach! These roaches were very large and would hiss at you, so being able to touch them was a very cool experience for the little tots. Their fun filled day had just begun though. After they got their taste of some Madagascar wildlife, they had

their faces painted. They could look like anything from a butterfly or a flower to a shark or a dragon! Rocking their new and awesome face paint job, the little ones got to play in the learning center where there was an ambulance, fire truck, a restaurant, and learning and art centers. The kids had fun playing in the learning center and a lot of fun overall at the Woodlands Children Museum. One of the pre-kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Holm, said this about their field trip, "It was a wonderful time because the kids were able to do hands on science experiments and even learn about and touch a real Madagascar roach!" She said that this was one of the best field trips they have been on and the kids and parents had a great time learning and just having fun. 🍌



Photo: LISA HOLM

TO TOUCH OR NOT TO TOUCH: Brave Nicole Wiesman decides to pet the Madagascar roach while at the Woodlands Children Museum.

Shop 'Til You Drop

By: Melissa Walker, Staff Reporter

Scrip Cards is an organization that benefits the school and those who order. A percentage of the money spent is split between the school and the customer who ordered. There are 27 categories of cards and hundreds of gift cards available for many different retailers on the Scrip website. Some of the best sellers are: Wal-Mart, Starbucks, Red Lobster, iTunes, Chili's, JCPenney, and Kohl's. Some gift cards are always available in the

front office, such as Kroger, Starbucks, Wendy's, and Jack in the Box. Other gift cards are easy to order online at www.shopwithscrip.com.

Approximately \$7,000 was split between the school and the participating parents last year. For more information, contact Mrs. Holub in the front office. 🍌



Booster Club

By: Marga Haas, Booster Club President

The Booster Club meeting held on September 30 was well attended and covered concession stand rules, future events, and the basketball season.

It's hard to believe that the soccer and volleyball seasons are already coming to a close. Parent and Senior Night for volleyball was Tuesday, October 5. Coach Severson delivered an individual message of appreciation to each senior. The night was very memorable; senior parents and Coach had a difficult time holding back their tears. The girls kept their composure and were able to play a great game and bring home a victory.

The soccer team had their Parent and Senior Night on Tuesday, October 19. The team wore pink socks and headbands to support breast cancer awareness month in honor of those at CCS dealing with cancer. The Cougars defeated Lifestyle by 2 goals. Both teams head to the play offs. Go, Cougars! 🍌

Stand Up for Life

By: Marissa Nanos, Staff Reporter

The National Life Chain took place Sunday, October 3. Life Chain is a time for people to stand up for the unborn babies who are aborted each and every day. While they stand along a major road, people hold up their signs that read different messages such as, "Abortion kills children," "Adoption - the loving option," and "Pray to end abortion." As they hold up their signs, they are praying to the Lord for an end to abortion and for forgiveness of our nation.

This year, a number of Covenant students stood in front of the H-E-B on Frazier Street. The school had a turnout of about fifteen kids. "It's interesting to see people's reactions toward abortion. It was either they honked at us or just ignored us. It was a great experience! I loved it!" stated senior, Kelly Wiesmann. It was a great chance for all the kids to get out of the Covenant "bubble" and be put in the middle of the real world to stand up for righteousness. 🍌



Photo: SHARON NANOS

STANDING UP FOR CHANGE: Covenant students silently protest abortion.

Carving Out Fun

By: Melissa Walker, Staff Reporter

The first grade class is having fun celebrating fall! On Thursday, October 7, the cheerful first graders went on a field trip to Seven Acre Wood. The children enjoyed petting the goats and llamas in the petting zoo and riding the zip line. They also got to go on a hay ride and bring home their own pumpkins.

When the kids came back to school, they met with their study buddies and carved out their pumpkins. Not missing out on an educational opportunity, they counted the pumpkin seeds and then wrote a poem in the shape of a pumpkin. After these activities were over, the first graders relaxed and enjoyed eating some delicious pumpkin treats. 🍌

Birthday Book Club

Student	Grade	Title	Birthday
Wes Owens	PK	<i>Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog</i>	Oct. 11
Teagan Filla	PK	<i>King Cobra</i>	May 4
Alyssa Baldwin	K	<i>Berenstain Bears and the Truth</i>	Nov. 22
Samuel Zimmer	K	<i>Peace Week in Miss Fox's Class</i>	Dec. 31
Roman Filla	1	<i>Rattlesnakes</i>	Mar. 18
Zoe Angelo	1	<i>Deadly Poison Dart Frogs</i>	Jan. 1
Emma Owens	1	<i>Llama Llama Misses Mama</i>	April 4
Georgia Ann Everett	1	<i>Bloody Horned Lizards</i>	Jan. 22
Jace Johnson	1	<i>Max and the Dumb Flower Picture</i>	July 9
Lyn Rod	1	<i>Plant Life</i>	Feb. 20
Ryan Schobert	2	<i>Berenstain Bears Count Their Blessings</i> <i>Nubs, the True Story of a Mutt, a Marine and a Miracle</i>	Sept. 26
Jordan Enriquez	3	<i>Skateboarding Science</i>	Feb. 24
Cori Eckert	4	<i>Grandfather's Dance</i>	June 20
Logan Jasso	4	<i>Tuff Fluff: Case of the Missing Duckie's Brain</i>	July 16
Peyton Middleton	4	<i>Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig</i>	Dec. 26
Madeline Williams	4	<i>Stanley, Flat Again</i> <i>Discover Snakes</i>	July 4
Alexa Moses	4	<i>Talented Clementine</i>	Sept. 3
Georgia Zepeda	4	<i>Last Polar Bears</i>	July 19
Zach Shirley	5	<i>Crocodile Tears</i>	Jan. 28

Library News

By: Linda Tatko, Librarian

Get ready! It's time for the 17th Annual CCS Book Fair to be held in the library Tuesday, Nov. 30 through Thursday, Dec. 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be something for everyone: good books for all ages and Christian T-shirts.

Parent and grandparent helpers are needed to set up (Monday), to work a shift at the fair, and to box up remaining inventory on Friday. If you expressed a desire to be involved on your volunteer form, you should receive a phone call soon, or you may call Mrs. Tatko at 936-890-8080 to offer.

Watch your Monday folders for more information about the Book Fair and your child's class schedule. ●

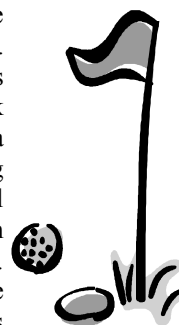
Fore!

By: Katelyn Holm, Staff Reporter

The first annual Golf and Walkathon proved to be a "hole-in-one" event! After a pizza and ice-cream social to kick off the rallying of CCS support, everyone was excited to see how God would work through the Golf/Walkathon. The fundraiser was held at the April Sound golf course, where golfers and walkers trekked the 18-hole course. Covenant Christian School families were encouraged to support school growth, both spiritual and academic, through their donations and giving. Each family was encouraged to send out thirty letters, asking for support and pledges for the upcoming event. Families who donated were given the opportunity to win prizes according to how much they raised. These prizes included plasma

televisions, ipads, and vacations.

After the walkers received money and became sponsored, they put on their comfy sneakers and walked the course. Golfers paid an entry fee, then grabbed their clubs and hit the course as well. This event, in place of the legacy banquet, raised funds for scholarships, a new covered walkway, new computers, and a new school van. All of these things will be wonderful additions to the school! The goal for the fundraiser was \$75,000. To date, \$42,616 has been pledged. Thank you to all who were a part of this amazing day! Look for a final figure in the next edition of *The CCS Growler*. Praise God for all He did, does, and continues to do! ●



PFH

By: Katelyn Holm, Staff Reporter

Play for Him. The varsity volleyball team has adopted this slogan, frequently chanting, "PFH!" The girls are determined to adopt a positive attitude this year and strive to praise God in everything they do. Under the direction of Coach Severson, the Lady Cougars went undefeated through district play. October 5 was volleyball's senior/parent night at CCS. It was an emotional time for the girls, saying goodbye to Kelly Wiesmann, Katelyn Holm, and Sarah Lewis. The seniors each received a special frame full of pictures and memories from the season. But it is not goodbye yet, as Covenant volleyball is headed to playoffs! After wiping away their tears, the Cougs handily defeated their district rivals, Bay Area Christian, to clinch the district win.

The girls have bonded this year, unlike any other. In the Livingstones Tournament, the Cougars took 2nd place

among 44 other teams. Kelly Wiesmann and Katelyn Holm received all-tournament selection. The weekend was a great time of learning what the team needs to work on, as well as learning about each other. Senior Sarah Lewis said, "This team, by far, has been the best team I have been on in high school! We are definitely like a family. I'm so comfortable to be myself around each of them. I love the moments we spend laughing...at nothing! The girls have made my senior year all the more memorable!" Though the memories made on the court are important, the lasting ones are those made off the court. Victoria Camenisch, a junior starter, added, "My favorite thing about this team is its perfect balance between pushing each other to get better and having a ton of fun with friends. Even in our most intense moments, everyone is encouraging and we all have each others' backs. As a team we're focused on the fact that God has us where we are to glorify Him, and that in itself is a huge blessing!"

Diggin' In

By: Melissa Walker, Staff Reporter

The junior high volleyball team has a 6-1 record this season under the instruction of Coach O'Brien. All the practices paid off! The girls had their last district tournament on October 15-16 at Northland Christian. The end of the year District Tournament for the Cougars was an epic showdown of the eight best teams in the district. Covenant was the number one team going into the tournament and showed why on the first day as they dismantled The Woodlands Christian Academy. On the second day of the tournament, things changed a little bit. The girls lost their first game to a scrappy SATCH team. They fought hard and tried their best, but it didn't work out for the Lady Cougars. Their next game was for 3rd place against the much bigger Cypress Christian School. The girls showed why they were the number one seed and whooped up on some Warriors from Cypress. They placed 3rd in the District Tournament. Good job!

Just Kickin It!

By: Tyler Holm, Staff Reporter

Soccer season is nearing its regular season end, but the hopes and expectations of the playoffs are rising. The soccer team has a chance to make the playoffs and do something if they get there, but they have to get there first. It is a tight race in the district and a number of teams could finish in 3rd or 4th. Right now, Covenant and Woodlands Prep are tied for 3rd place, and it will come down to the final few district games to decide which team will get which spot.

With victories over the last two of three opponents, Woodlands Prep and Clear Lake, Covenant is gaining momentum going into the most important game of the year versus Lifestyle Christian. This game is senior night and also a must win game for the Cougars. Seth Fox, a defensive player, says, "We have the capabilities and raw natural talent in order to make the playoffs, but in order to go far, we need to get our heads in the game. Before we do that, we must hone in and focus on the upcoming Lifestyle and Houston British games." The rest of the season is up in the air for the Cougars, and the forecast is cloudy with possible sunshine. Sic 'em, Cougars!

Bump! Set! Spike!

By: Katelyn Holm, Staff Reporter

Add some laughs, some cheers, and a little learning to the game of volleyball. What do you get? You get junior varsity volleyball! The team consisted of many new faces, including freshmen: Lindsey Buras, Lauren Lanier, Alix Richardson, Lydia Watson, Hannah Ramey, Rowan Harris; sophomores: Jessica Hansen, Megan Campbell, Geneva Clark; juniors: Lu-Cheree de Jager and Rebecca Miller.

The highlight of the season was the Cougars' victory in Lifestyle's tournament. Though their record did not reflect it, the girls worked very hard this year! Coach Sherrie Owens led the girls, encouraging them while pushing them to step out of their comfort zone, on and off the court. Leading the team was Jessica Hansen and Lu-Cheree de Jager. Lu-Cheree had this to say about the season, "This season was a lot of fun even though we didn't really win much. But it's not about winning, it's about having fun! We all grew closer together and became one big happy family. Geneva really stepped up this year. All the girls contributed a lot to the team. My favorite part of the game is definitely blocking someone because it gave the game momentum. It was a great year!" Way to go, Cougars!

Go for the Goal

By: Zach Ramey, Staff Reporter

The 2010 junior high soccer season has gone exceptionally well! The team, coached by Brian Fox, came out with six victories, one tie, and only one loss this season!



Coach Fox said that the team has gotten along well and has been working hard at practices to bring the best in the games. On Tuesday, October 12, they traveled to Baytown and played a great game against Chinquapin and came out with a victory of 3-0. When asked how the season had gone, Coach Fox said, "This has been the best record we have had in junior high soccer for awhile." This Covenant team finished off its season with two games, one against Lifestyle at home and the other against Houston British away. Great job, Cougars!

PTF News

By: Patty Lewis, PTF President

PTF stands for Parent Teacher Fellowship. Michelle Miller is the vice president, Nicole Cross is the secretary, and Pam Wear is the treasurer. We exist to unite families and encourage teachers. PTF meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the school library. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 2. PTF helps with the Golf/Walkathon, Round Up Auction, and box tops fund raiser. We are privileged to host the Teachers Christmas Luncheon. At the end of each school year, PTF purchases the needed equipment for the classrooms. This year, PTF will host a talent show in the spring. Admission charged at the talent show will go to PTF, which will go back to our classrooms.

We are also planning a PTF social for parents and teachers when the schedule permits. I would like for our elementary families to meet our secondary teachers and families, so they will know just how blessed they will continue to be throughout their children's time at Covenant. One idea for a social is to have a

"Bring Your Own Craft" night. We have had some moms volunteer to teach jewelry making, beaded ornament making, etc. for those who would like to learn something new.

My husband and I have been at the school for 13 years and have three children at Covenant. Many times over the years, we have been made aware of just how blessed we are to give our children the opportunity to learn from such dedicated, diligent, caring, and sincere teachers. Whenever my children needed extra help with a subject, their teachers went the extra mile and spent precious time teaching and explaining principles to them. When they needed encouragement, it was given without fail. When they needed to "step up" and do something outside of their comfort zone, they were called upon by their teachers and then supported for the task at hand. This has been true from their elementary grades throughout all of secondary. PTF has the unique opportunity to serve and unite elementary and secondary families and teachers. In doing so, it is our hope that families who have children at Covenant will remain at Covenant through their children's senior year. 🍎

STOP! Club

By: Mrs. Presnell, STOP Club advisor

STOP is a club that is dedicated to serving others, that is why it is called the service to others project. Over 40 students (9th-12th grade) have already committed to serve as volunteers on at least two of our group projects. We offer a wide variety of opportunities for students to serve, such as:

- Taking donations for Bibles for Troops in November.
 - Making Christmas cards for the Angel Tree Program, which is a moms in prison outreach.
 - Volunteering as an aide to a special needs child at the United Cerebral Palsy Foundations Camp Buckaroo.
 - Socializing dogs and cats in the adoption program at Montgomery County Animal Shelter.
- Showing dedication to CCS by maintaining our trophy case.

As STOP members, CCS students maintain a helpful record of their hours of volunteerism and their willingness to experience new challenges. STOP club rocks! 🍎

Making History

By: Seth Fox, Staff Reporter

Varsity cross country has had many meets this year. So far it has been a solid run for state with five varsity guys and one girl. The drive and commitment of the team can be seen around the school after hours as the team runs in the hot sun. Some of the runners are playing soccer as well, showing a lot of dedication and time management. When asked about cross country, one of the senior runners, Blake Barringer, said, "Death." New coach, John Bleyl, is pushing them to their limits.

Josh Hayes, another senior runner, said, "Blake, John Paul and I are all excited about the state meet and are looking to make history." This would be the first state title that Covenant Christian School would earn in the TAPPS 2A division.

The boys' intense dedication during the season earned them the title of State Champions at the meet on October 16 in Waco. Josh Hayes placed 4th, Blake Barringer placed 5th, John Paul Bledsoe placed 7th, Nathan Mayes placed 26th,

Jaron Haas placed 27th. Overcoming the up hill battle against tendonitis, Taylor Terry, the lone girl runner, did really well, placing 23rd out of eighty-eight runners. Due to hard work and dedication the cross country team has in fact made history. The cross country teams, both junior high and varsity, have improved immensely. The athletes attribute much of their improvement to their new coach's training techniques. 🍎



Photo: BRAD HAYES

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS! John Paul Bledsoe, Josh Hayes, Jaron Haas, Blake Barringer, and Nathan Mayes share their excitement over their fabulous accomplishment. Congratulations, State Champs!

Running for Fun

By: Becca Lewis, Staff Reporter

Under the direction of Coach Bleyl, the junior high team found out first hand the definition of cross country. This was the first time any of the runners had been involved in this sport. The junior high runners include: 7th graders-Nic Hatcher, Chase Hayden, Matthew Higgins, and Jeremy Lockwood; 8th graders -Matt Day and John Stephens.

These boys had the privilege of working out after school with the varsity cross country team. These experienced runners were great role models for the novice runners. Chase Hayden said, "I love doing cross country because I met people, and it got me into shape." The boys each had a sense of accomplishment as they shaved time off their personal best records week after week. Medals were won, yet often the biggest rewards came from developing endurance and perseverance.

The team finished its season with a meet in Katy and a Bacon Run in Willis, which was a fundraiser for former classmate Danielle Bacon. Keep those running shoes on! 🍎

November

- 1 Senior parent meeting
- 2 4th grade field trip
- 5-6 Varsity volleyball state
- 6 Varsity soccer regional
- 8-9 Math Olympics
- 12 3rd grade field trip
- 12-13 Varsity soccer state
- 15 School board meeting
- 17 Secondary sports awards
- 19 Junior high drama evening performance
- 20 High school basketball rock-a-thon
- 24-26 School holiday (Thanksgiving)
- 29-3 Library book fair opens

December

- 3 Library book fair ends
- 8 Junior high drama chapel
- 9 Elementary Christmas concert
- 13 Secondary Christmas concert
- 15-17 Secondary exams
- 17 End of 2nd 9 weeks
Noon dismissal
- 20-31 Christmas holiday

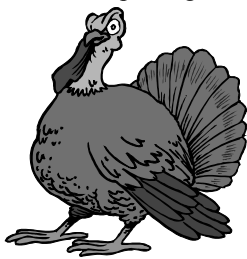
Give Thanks To God

By: Zach Ramey, Staff Reporter

Thanksgiving Day is one of the biggest and greatest holidays of the year. Traditionally, it is a time to give thanks for the harvest and express gratitude in general.

The pilgrims came over from England and landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1621. They were trying to escape the king's rule and get freedom of religion. Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Day is currently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November and has been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863. Thanksgiving was historically a religious observation to give thanks to God.

Family traditions have become an important aspect of celebrating this holiday. What are your family traditions?



Hayden Bryant, a fourth grader in Mrs. Patterson's class, explained what his family traditions are on Thanksgiving Day. He said that he and his family usually go to their grandparent's house and hang out with them and eat Thanksgiving dinner with the family. His favorite food that is on the Thanksgiving table is chicken. He also said that he likes to have friends over during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Grisham Vaught, a third grader in Mrs. Nolan's class, also told what his family traditions are on Thanksgiving. He said that he, his dad, and brothers all go to their ranch and shoot turkeys. He explained, "My brothers usually shoot the bigger turkeys, and I shoot the little ones." He said that his grandma makes and prepares the turkey and then comes over to his house, and they enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner together. His favorite food on the Thanksgiving table is pretzel salad.

Thanksgiving is an excellent time of the year to share with family and to eat great, delicious food. But most of all, it is a time to show gratitude toward those you love and ultimately thank God for all that He has provided and given us! ●

Apple Cake

- 1 ¼ cups Wesson oil (only!)
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 ½ cups flour (self-rising)
- 3 cups chopped GREEN apples
- 1 cup nuts (walnuts, pecans)
- 1 ¼ teaspoons cinnamon
- Mix in order.
- Bake at 350 degrees, approx. 30-45 minutes.

