



THE CCS GROWLER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Change

By: Mr. John Weaver, Head Administrator

This begins my third year at Covenant Christian School. To say I have enjoyed becoming a part of this family of believers committed to Christian schooling would be an understatement. The time however, has not been without its challenges. The economy, changing demands of parents for quality education with all the bells and whistles found in our public schools and the sacrifice that families must make to keep their children in Christian school have kept us busy for the past two years. Despite the challenges, Covenant enrollment has increased 10% over the last two years, finances are once again in the black, and we have been able to begin to institute changes such as Advance Placement courses to better prepare students for our rapidly changing world. Last spring's re-accreditation visit by ACSI has confirmed that we are a productive Christian school providing a great Christian education.

The question that immediately comes to mind is, "What is next?" The school board has recently embarked on a challenge to develop a long-range vision for Covenant that will take us through the next five years. As we go through this process I am looking forward to sharing our vision and plan with you. However, as we look to change we must first look at what cannot change.

Almost ten years ago, ACSI shared a new acronym with us at our annual con-

vention, TIPCO. It addressed the Essential Elements of a Christian School, which aimed to identify the core of what Christian schools should hold as their unassailable benchmarks. As we look to change, these principles cannot change:

Truth—The Christian school is grounded in God's revealed Word.

Intellectual Development—The Christian school has a duty to prepare the minds of its students well.

Christian Educators—The Christian school is led by a board, administration, faculty, and staff who are committed Christians.

Potential in Christ—The Christian school should be engaging students toward their full potential in every area of life.

Operational Integrity—Every facet of the school's business operations should reflect a godly standard of ethics and integrity.

TIPCO covers the unchangeable aspects in broad categories. However, it is the day-to-day and year-to-year decisions that have the potential to change what a school is and what it becomes. Decisions about vision and mission, educational philosophy, curricular emphasis, staffing qualifications, programs offered, and admissions have a cumulative effect on the heart of the school. It is in this routine of decide-and-move-forward (or backward) decision making that a school's future may be changed in quality and character. It is the sum total of those decisions that often changes a school for the better or worse. I solicit your prayers as we move forward with change that we, as the leadership of CCS, will remember what cannot change. ☛

Aren't They Grand?

By: Ruth Smith, School Board President

Each year at Covenant as we welcome students back to school, we also welcome another set of special people onto our campus: grandparents. What does one think of when hearing that term, "Grandparent?" Gray hair? A shuffling walk? Someone who tells lots of stories about days gone by? And why do we set aside a day at Covenant to celebrate them so specifically?

I am fascinated by grandparents. I never met any of my own – by the time I was born all but one had passed away. My remaining grandfather lived far from us, and I never got a chance to meet him. But when I would see children with their grandfathers and grandmothers, coming to their school plays or taking them for walks in the neighborhood, I was mesmerized by the ease in which they chatted and got along. I wondered how it would feel to hold hands with a grandpa or to make cookies with a sweet-smelling grandma. I marveled at what it must be like to have the undivided attention of someone from a generation that never seemed to be in too big a hurry.

As a grownup, I am no less fascinated. Each year on Grandparents Day at Covenant, I watch the children going into school with the anticipation of the day written all over their faces. They are excited to have visitors in the school, certainly, but there is something much more than that going on. There is a particular joy that the children exude when singing, and a veritable bursting with pride when taking that special grandparent to the classroom to show off their
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New Additions

By: Sonali Aggarwal, Staff Reporter

Covenant welcomes three new teachers for the 2011-2012 school year: Mr. Petruccio, Mrs. Owens, and Mrs. Anne Patterson. Mr. Dathan Petruccio is the new secondary principal and teaches eleventh grade Bible. He has taught at Chicago Christian High School, The Woodlands Christian Academy, and online University of Phoenix classes. Mr. P. has said, "So far everyone has been nice, helpful, and welcoming." His Bible class has especially welcomed him, making him the leader of the Juniors' Wolf Pack. Mr. Petruccio's daughter is enrolled here at Covenant as well.

Mrs. Sherrie Owens teaches 11th grade chemistry, 12th grade physics, and junior varsity volleyball. This is her second year to coach volleyball. She previously taught at Maydecreek High School. She has said that so far things have been pretty good, but busy, which is always expected.

Of all the new teachers, Mrs. Anne Patterson has her hands the fullest. In the land of the munchkins, she teaches kindergarten. Previously, Mrs. Patterson has taught at Christ Community School. "Things are going wonderful. I love Covenant. I love the kids, the staff, and the parents," she said.

Everyone is looking forward to a brand new year. What will the future hold? Only time will tell. ☺

Fore!

By: Steve Moses, Event Coordinator

Last year, Covenant tried for the first time a Golf/Walk-a-thon fundraising event, and not only was it a fun event for the students, but we also raised over \$55,000 for our school! We were able to add the awning in the front drop-off area for the younger kids and to fund some of our unfulfilled scholarships. We are all excited about what we can accomplish this year now that we have the kinks worked out and know what we're doing! This year's goal is to buy a 24 passenger shuttle bus to be used for field trips and for our sports teams.

The event will be held at the April Sound Golf Club again on Monday, October 24. It's not too late to be part of this wonderful event. For information, contact Steve Moses at 713-202-4563 to let him know if you want to help. ☺

Family Forever

By: Melissa Walker, October Edition Editor

Looking back over the years, I am flooded with memories of amazing times. I know most seniors talk about the years of sports, friends, homework, and, of course, the ever dreaded decision of where to go for college. But looking back over my years of high school, there is one thing that stands out to me the most: my family. There is not one memory that I have where my parents and my sister were not there in some way. For all the volleyball and basketball games they could make, they were always there in the stands cheering me on. All the times we had class trips or activities my mom filled up the truck with snacks and drove us all there. Through all the tears of frustration and heartache, my parents were always there holding the tissue box with worried looks on their faces. And in all the tough decisions, my sister was always there quietly leading by example and softly leaving hints. Looking back, I realize how lucky I was to have the support and discipline my parents provided for me. Even in the times I did not realize it, my parents were always supporting me and driving me to be a better person whether it was through discipline or encouragement. Now that I am faced with a million decisions this year, I know that the support that was behind me all these years will not fade away. My mom used to always tell me, "Friends come and go, but family lasts forever." In my life I know this will stand true forever. ☺

Schedule Change

By: Rebecca Stanley, Staff Reporter

Covenant commences the school year with a new class schedule for the secondary. This new schedule divides each week into either white or blue. Every other day, students will attend different classes. For example, if a sophomore takes English on Monday, then that same sophomore will take English on Wednesday and Friday as well. The following week, he or she will take English on Tuesday and Thursday, and so on. This pattern is called block scheduling. Many private schools and universities use it, which gives students more time in each class and an extra day to prepare homework and school projects. ☺

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work. Not even the high school students are exempt – one only has to listen in the hallway to hear whose grandparents are coming and from how far.

The grandparents today are a fascinating group. Gray hair and a shuffling walk does not fully describe the visitors who will be coming to our doors on September 16. Today statistics tell us that 43% play sports on a regular basis, 86% have cell phones, 45% are on social networks like Facebook or Twitter, 10% have a tattoo, and 60% still work in a full or part-time job.

This Grandparents Day my kids and I will be looking at the visitors with a certain sadness. My mother, or "Nana," can not visit the school she loved so much anymore. After suffering a stroke last year at age 88, she now lives in a nursing home for dementia patients. Although her sense of humor remains intact and she knows who each of us is, she can no longer go places and visit like she used to. (We still laugh at her last visit to Covenant – a basketball game where she stood up in the stands and yelled at Coach Heldmann for keeping one of her grandsons on the bench too long.) Humiliating at the time, but we would love to have her here again!

So why do we at Covenant take time each year to honor our grandparents? Because, like it or not, they each had a role in shaping us and how our own families turned out. They taught us about life, they led us to the Lord, they made mistakes we say we'll never make, ...they love our children. Proverbs 17 tells us that "children's children are a crown to the aged" – literally that our children bring joy to our parents that we will never understand until we become grandparents ourselves.

This year, take time to bring a grandparent with you to Covenant if you can. Not just on Grandparents Day, but anytime during the year. Walk with them in the halls. Introduce them to your children's friends. Take them to a sports event and apologize to Coach Heldmann later if you have to! Honor them for the place they have in your child's life. And if you see any students like mine, whose grandparents can no longer make the journey, share yours with them. ☺

What a bargain grandchildren are! I give them my loose change, and they give me a million dollars' worth of pleasure.

~Gene Perret

Radical Robots

By: Sonali Aggarwal, Staff Reporter

Mr. Zepeda, who has been doing robotics since 2009, is the dedicated robotics instructor. He started the pilot program at Covenant in September of 2010. Even though there are many robotic learning systems, he uses the Lego Mindstorm robotic platform because it is easier to use in building and programming. It also has a lower starting cost, a great support by the big umbrella organizations (US First), and is also supported locally by the University of Houston. The program uses a laptop to program each robot for its given tasks.

The students apply math, science, and physics to maneuver and build their robots. When building the robots, the students must have an understanding of mechanical movements to properly place the gears and motors. Each student uses degrees and the number of rotations of the wheels to move their robots from one point to another. And each robot can be equipped with various sensors that can react

to sounds, light, colors, and touch as well. This after-school program is continuing to grow. The students get to learn a lot about



robots, how robots apply to the real world, and do hands-on activities.

They meet from August through April with December off, unless there's a competition, and then twice a week before competitions and once a week after competitions. The students will participate in the Lone Star qualifiers and championship series. After the current participants get refreshed for the year, a new group of students will start to learn the program. Currently participating are the following students: Thomas Clark, Maggie Martin, KayLee Pratt, Logan Jasso, Garrett Hood, Georgia Zepeda, Emma Moody, Angelie Aggarwal, and Jacey Neuberger. ☼



Life After Covenant

By: Andy Penland, Former CCS Principal and Teacher

For many years, I watched students, families, and co-workers come and go through the halls of CCS. Each day I walked into the building, in spite of how I felt or how my day had started, I knew there were brothers and sisters in Christ already inside preparing to do the Lord's work. Covenant is a place like no other, simply because the school board, faculty, staff, and parents who choose to be a part also choose to make our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the first part of all of its inner workings. So why would anyone ever choose to leave such a wonderful, spirit-filled place? Well, I cannot speak for anyone but myself, but the Lord impressed it upon me that He wanted to make some changes in my family's life and become more connected in the Kingwood community.

Now, I get up each work day and have a little different focus. The Lord has been using Courtney, my wife, to share the Gospel at work as three of her partners are an agnostic, a Muslim, and an orthodox Jew; she often discusses her faith with them. I have learned more about the Islamic faith as well as Judaism as their questions have pushed us to be more apologetic in our faith. I then spend time alone with God, often reading my *Jesus Calling* book as part of my morning. JP, my son, has had to transition from going to CCS where he could pray and read his Bible during the day to a school where that does not happen. Each morning we take some time together to pray for his day, teachers, and friends. JP has started to make some new friends, and when one of the kids in his class brought a Bible to school and told all the other kids he was a Christian, JP came home excited.

Once I have JP ready to go, then, comes the part of my morning that really tests my patience, waking up the two year old. If I am too slow, then I have to use a mixture of logic and bribery to convince Joshua that he cannot wear his Toy Story or Blue's Clues pajamas all

day. Fortunately, not every morning is like this, as many mornings he actually rubs my arm while I change him and in his cute little way tells me "Thank you, da-da" and "Love ya, da-da". Such sweet words always remind me to say the same thing to my heavenly Father before I rush out of the house.

After I drop off JP and Joshua, I then head to the Heights area of Houston. I am currently working as a recruiter for a start-up oil and gas recruiting firm. At work, we get requests from oil and gas companies as well as other recruiters to find people to fill open positions they have. My boss is a Christian, though (and a big football fan), so I enjoy working for him. We have talked many times about doing more for others in need once the business really begins to grow. My boss is a long time friend and a people lover. I am thankful the Lord has put me in a place working for someone who knows the bottom line is not money, but rather Jesus and how we treat others.

At this point in my life, I can honestly say I never thought I would be doing what I am doing right now. I had always believed I would spend the rest of my life in Christian education at CCS. However, one of the greatest lessons I learned from serving at Covenant is that at the end of the day, it is not about me! The only thing I can ever hope to do right is spend enough time each day in a desperate plea before the Lord asking Him to intervene in the lives of those around me who need Him most. Just being honest, I am not really there yet, but as Paul wrote in the letter to the Philippians, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." My family and I miss all of you. Feel free to drop us a line anytime at mr_penland@yahoo.com. All of you are in my prayers. I thank God for the opportunity to have served with such wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. Knowing how wonderful my days with each of you have been, I cannot wait to hang out with all of you in eternity! Take care and God bless. ☼

Meet the Staff!

Sonali Aggarwal



Favorite Bible Verse: 1 Cor. 10:13

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite Car: Mustang

Favorite Candy Bar: Milky Way

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: KFC



Seth Fox



Favorite Bible Verse: 1 John

Favorite Color: Yellow

Favorite Car: Volvo

Favorite Candy Bar: Crunch Bar

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Panda Express



Jessica Hansen



Favorite Bible Verse: Job 1:21

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Car: BMW

Favorite Candy Bar: Kit Kat

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Chic-fil-a



Tyler Holm



Favorite Bible Verse: Matt. 7:13-14

Favorite Color: Yellow

Favorite Car: Range Rover Sport

Favorite Candy Bar: Snickers

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Chicken Express



Becca Lewis



Favorite Bible Verse: 1 Cor. 13:13

Favorite Color: Pink

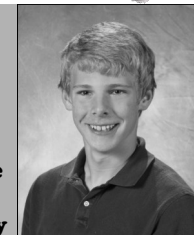
Favorite Car: Mustang

Favorite Candy Bar: Snickers

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Chic-fil-a



Nathan Mayes



Favorite Bible Verse: Phil. 4:13

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Car: Shelby Cobra

Favorite Candy Bar: Reese's

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Jack in the Box



Zach Ramey



Favorite Bible Verse: 1 Cor. 10:13

Favorite Color: Yellow

Favorite Car: Lamborghini Aventador

Favorite Candy Bar: Reese's

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Panda Express



Rebecca Stanley



Favorite Bible Verse: Ps. 121: 1-2

Favorite Color: Pink

Favorite Car: Swagga Wagon

Favorite Candy Bar: Nerds Rope

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Which Wich

Melissa Walker



Favorite Bible Verse: Psalm 23

Favorite Color: Yellow

Favorite Car: F-250

Favorite Candy Bar: Snickers

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Whataburger

Kaitlyn Weir



Favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah 40:8

Favorite Color: Turquoise

Favorite Car: Dodge Challenger

Favorite Candy Bar: Reese's

Favorite Fast Food Restaurant: Chic-fil-a

Key Club

By: Nathan Mayes, Staff Reporter

STOP Club, Covenant's former service organization, will return to participating in Key Club International. "Key Club is more widely recognized by colleges, which makes it easier to get scholarships," said Mrs. Holub, new sponsor of Key Club. The newly elected officers are: Morgan Garvin as president, Paige Holub as vice president, Victoria Camenisch as secretary, Rebecca Stanley as treasurer, and Becca Lewis as editor. Key Club has already had its first meeting and has big plans for the school year, which started at Carl Barton on September 24, where they participated in a fun fair for children. On October 1, they assisted the Aero Project. Its goal is to schedule and complete a project a month. 🎉



Birthday Book Club

Name	Grade	Title	Birth Date
Jeremy Hancock	2 nd	<i>Mysteries of the Komodo Dragon</i>	6/14
Cori Eckert	5 th	<i>Extra Credit</i>	6/20
Matthew Zepeda	PK	<i>King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table</i>	6/27
Presley Delcamp	PK	<i>Christian the Lion</i>	7/6
Logan Jasso	5 th	<i>Any Which Wall</i>	7/16
Georgia Zepeda	5 th	<i>Last Gold Diggers</i>	7/19
Katie Boudreaux	6 th	<i>Blood Red Horse</i>	8/1
Jenna Day	3 rd	<i>Sugar Plum Ballerinas</i>	8/4
Alexa Moses	5 th	<i>Fences Between Us: Diary of Piper Davis</i>	9/3

Chess

By: Seth Fox, Staff Reporter

It's 2:00 on a Friday afternoon. For students, there are now two choices, study hall or Chess Club. Chess is a two-player board game that capitalizes on one's tactical use of different playing pieces to achieve one goal. Easier said, it's a fun game to play with friends. Chess Club is open to all 9th – 12th graders at CCS who would generally have study hall during this time. To participate, students simply check-in with their study hall teacher first to let the teacher know they will be attending Chess Club that day. It is not a requirement that students join every Friday; however, when they do enter Room 19, they need to be prepared to participate in a mental duel with another partner. Why Chess? It's FUN! 🎉

It has always been recognized that chess is an art, and its best practitioners have been described as artists.

-Alexander Kotov

Encouragement for Evacuees

By: Jessica Hansen, Staff Reporter

This year, Texas has had record breaking high temperatures, droughts, and wildfires. Due to the vast amount of devastating wildfires, Covenant families collected donations to take to evacuees in Magnolia. Jessica Littlefield has taken supplies including all different kinds of food, water bottles, diapers, paper towels, and more. She has made four trips out to Magnolia with these donations generously given by Covenant families. She has taken them to the Magnolia Fire Department and supplied fire fighters with water bottles and other needs. Living Waters Church in Magnolia is serving as a convenient store for victims to get food and other supplies for their families, and donations have been taken there also. Those in Magnolia have been very appreciative to everyone who has helped out. Jessica Littlefield said, "It has been a breath of fresh air to see Covenant families reach out to help others. What a blessing we have been to those in need! I am proud of our school, and I want to personally thank all of those that made this effort a HUGE success." 🎉



Library News

By: Mrs. Tatko, Librarian

Thank you for the early response to the Birthday Book Club. If you have not already done so, you may enroll your child(ren) in the BBC at any time by sending \$15.00 to the library. The form is not really necessary, so just simply indicate the child's name and birth date in the memo of your check. During the student's birthday month, the honoree will select a book in which a bookplate identifying him or her as the donor will be placed. This book will be checked out to him or her before it becomes part of the library collection. The student will then be mentioned in a future *Growler* as a benefactor of the CCS library! 🎉

Junior Outreach

By: Jessica Hansen, Staff Reporter

The juniors decided that they want to be more unified as a class, and take leadership as upperclassmen this year and next year. After some discussion, they concluded that an effective and influential way to do this was by doing service projects together. Their first project was on Saturday August 20, 2011. Six members of the junior class and one sophomore volunteered for a few hours at the Montgomery County Food Bank in downtown Conroe. They taped labels to canned vegetables, and then



cleaned off all the cans. The juniors plan to serve once a month, and will probably participate in a variety of projects throughout the year. Other possible projects include: volunteering at an assisted living center, at a nursing home, or at the Salvation Army. They want to make a difference in the community by sharing God's love with others. Savannah Evans said, "It was worth it," and Megan Campbell said "It was a really cool experience and a good way to help others out." Everyone enjoyed serving others through this experience! ☺

Bacon, Burritos, and Belgium Waffles

By: Seth Fox, Staff Reporter

The newsletter class had the privilege of sampling many restaurants last school year while editing your own *CCS Growler* for mistakes and errors. During our sampling of the best the city of Conroe has to offer, we tried seven breakfast serving restaurants. In our expedition to find greatness, we ate at the classics: IHOP, Denny's, and Cracker Barrel. The classics were good, but, as adventurous young writers, we wanted to go away from the mainstream. We visited Egg Cetera, Pie in the Sky, and The Toasted Yolk. In the end, the classics were great, but The Toasted Yolk was the best. Here are just some of the comments by our staff. Zach Ramey said, "They have ginormous pancakes and astounding hash brown casserole." Kaitlyn Weir said, "I absolutely love it, it's my fave." So if you are looking for a great breakfast experience, stop by the Toasted Yolk and experience the flavor

Club de Español

By: Kaitlyn Weir, Staff Reporter

Three years ago, Mrs. Sonia Miller started a club for high school students that would help them improve their Spanish skills and reach out to young children in the community. The club meets once a week to discuss its ideas. On the last Tuesday of each month, the group goes to Sam Houston Elementary School where they interact with bilingual pre-kindergarten kids. It's a challenge for the club members because the pre-kindergarteners can speak both English AND Spanish! Each time they go, they sing songs, have story-time, and do some sort of craft that the students can take home. Senior Kaitlyn Weir was elected president this year, and junior Savannah Evans was elected vice-president. Ninth graders, McLane Zaitz and Sierra Dockray are the club's secretaries. Corbin VanSteenberg and Scott Buras serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mrs. Miller said, "The first meeting of Spanish Club began with a group of 22 students. It was heartwarming to see so many students eager to serve our community. They quickly chose a book to be read to the preschoolers at the end of the month, and they came up with some wonderful craft ideas and songs to tie in the theme of colors. We've got some hard workers in this group with great ideas; I feel very blessed to see our CCS students in action as they take the lead in serving in this capacity." Because the group serves in a public school, they are not allowed to directly speak about Jesus; however, it is hoped that their attitudes would be a witness and hopefully influence them in a positive way. Pray for an amazing year for the Spanish Club of 2011-2012! ☺

NHS

By: Seth Fox, Staff Reporter

National Honor Society officially started its year on September 14 with new sponsor, Mrs. Roetman, heading up the meeting. The meeting's purpose was to discuss activities for the year. The first NHS sponsored activity is the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program. The high school classes will collect items for these boxes in November. NHS is excited to serve the community and is looking forward to a good year. ☺

Summer Missions

By: Sonali Aggarwal, Staff Reporter

This summer I went on a mission trip to Joplin, Missouri. In May, an EF-5 tornado ripped through this small town. Approximately 157 people were killed, much less than was expected with such a powerful tornado. My church, Spring Creek, led the mission trip and other churches came. It took us a full day to get to Joplin. We worked on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, and on Sunday we went to church and rested.

Our group of around forty people split up and either helped with demolition or the distribution center. We worked with AmeriCorps in the demolition and a local church in the distribution center. The demolition group helped clear out debris from the basements of houses that had been blown away and/or destroyed. At times, it seemed like we were not doing much, but we were helping people who did not have insurance on their houses clean up their homes so they could rebuild. When those times came around, I had to remember that I was doing my part, no matter how small.

At the distribution center there were a lot of things happening at once. The main headquarters was the church's bus barn, converted into a miniature grocery store. There were huge shelves stocked with food, household items, and other things people might need.



There, people who needed food and other things could get them with the help of their personal shopper. Personal shoppers were random volunteers who were taught how to do the job and then made sure shoppers got only what they needed and talked to them and tried to lead them to Christ. The church also owned two houses nearby that were full of clothes and shoes. Donations continued to stream in. There were also several eighteen-wheelers that sat in the parking lot full of donations just waiting to be unpacked. My church brought a snow cone machine and held activities such as face painting for the kids while their parents shopped.

All in all, it was a great mission trip. We were all able to help someone, whether it was directly or indirectly. ☺

Run, Cougars, Run

By: Tyler Holm, Staff Reporter

Covenant sports are off and running and one of those sports does exactly that, run! CCS Cross Country is coming off a state championship last year and is looking to follow that with another championship winning performance. The runners have many opportunities to show off and enhance their running skills as there are five meets scheduled. The varsity squad is coached by John Bleyl and Rebekah Love. The varsity squad includes: 9th grader Nicolas Angelo, 10th grader Will Allen, 11th graders Parker Zaitz, Jeremiah Bitgood, and returning all state runner, John Paul Bledsoe. The lone senior on this youthful squad is Becca Lewis, who is rejoining the team after a year absence, and she is very excited about it and ready to see what the meets have in store.

The junior high squad includes: 6th graders Veronica Holsem, Christian Miller, and Luke Breedlove, 7th grader Katie Bleyl, and 8th graders Alexa Reynolds, Nic Hatcher, Connor Bolleter, and John Taylor. Their first meet was a 5k fun run in The Woodlands and most of the varsity team participated. The next meet is a varsity and junior high meet at John Cooper on September 17, and then a meet at Houston Christian on the 24th. Nike South will be the last meet for varsity before state on October 7. The Cougars will wrap up their season with the TAPPS State Meet (varsity only) on October 22. Coach Bleyl is ready for the new season and says, "The defending State Champions are ready to compete this fall. This year's team is young and will be working hard to follow up last year's championship season with another good year! John Paul Bledsoe is the only returning runner from the State Meet, and is the team captain. The weather has been a challenge, but the runners are dedicated and will be aerobically fit for the first meet." The Cougars have a hot and tiring, yet somehow enjoyable season ahead of them, so run, Cougars, run! ☺



Kicking Off the New Season

By: Rebecca Stanley, Staff Reporter

The 2011-2012 varsity soccer season actually began this summer. The Cougars commenced practicing on August 1, and hosted a soccer camp in late June. This year's soccer team is led by the seniors (Team Captains) which are the following: Seth Fox, Becca Lewis, Cameron Fowler, Tyler Holm, and Zach Angelo. The remaining players include: Juniors- Daylon Rogers, Conner Wilson, Dawson Wear, and Scott Lowe; Sophomores- Will Allen, Ross Hauser, Jonathan Hansen, and Joel Fox; and Freshmen- Josh Wagner, Sterling Smith (goalie), Gentry Smith, Hayden Benson, Hayden Pratt, Corbin VanSteenberg, Charlie Staelens, Scott Buras, Luke Fox, McLane Zaitz, Jonathan Stephens, Garet Mayes, and Brooks Jackson. They practice from Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 5:00 in the afternoon. Although the high temperatures have been scorching, the players have done well in their practices and our working hard to prepare for the season. The Cougar Varsity Soccer Team is supervised by Coach Allen, who has been coaching varsity soccer for fifteen years at both the public and private school levels. When asked about this soccer season, Coach Allen said, "We are looking forward to the season – We have high expectations this year because of our depth." In fact, this year the soccer teams have already played Austin Concordia, Longview Christian Heritage, Sherman Texoma, and Kingsville Pan American. And remember team, don't go through life without goals! Go Cougars! ☺



ONE TEAM ONE DREAM: Jonathan Hansen fulfills the team's motto by hustling to receive the soccer ball for the win.

Dig It

By: Zach Ramey, Staff Reporter

Covenant volleyball has spiked off the season with a great positive poise and zealous outlook on a fruitful season. The intense varsity and junior varsity tryouts started on August 1 & 2. There were 19 players who received a spot on the varsity and junior varsity teams including three returning seniors and five newcomers setting up for a great season!

Varsity girls have been working hard since the very start of the season and have played 13 matches. Their season record so far is 8-5, thrilling the team and giving them more drive to become better. The Lady Cougars have participated in two tournaments as well: its very own Covenant Tournament and the John Cooper Tournament. The team took consolation away from the Covenant Tournament, which was exciting for the girls, while the John Cooper was tough competition and was a good experience for them. Coach Severson, the head varsity volleyball coach, said, "The team is a growing, young group of girls learning to work together. They have exceeded my expectations already and have worked harder and gone farther than anticipated. We have very good leadership from the seniors, which I am proud of, and I hope that we will make it to regionals this year." ☺

Ready, Set, Spike

By: Kaitlyn Weir, Staff Reporter

Junior high volleyball sets off the season with intensity! Their record stands at 4 and 6, and they look forward to improving their skills and teamwork through practice and dedication. Being a part of a team requires teamwork, as well as attitude and determination. Throughout the season the girls hope to acquire more basic knowledge of the game of volleyball, which will deepen their love of the sport and their teammates. Their overall goal is to glorify God by playing to the best of their abilities. Eighth grade twins, Jean-Mari and Petri-Louise de Jager said, "We expect to win a lot of games. We're going to have a lot of fun while doing it. We're excited to see how everyone improves through the season." Keep up the good work, Lady Cougars! ☺

Photo: SAVANNAH EVANS

Booster Club

By: Zach Ramey, Staff Reporter

Booster Club has been active at Covenant for many years and has served the CCS sports program in many amazing ways. Booster Club consists of all the enthusiastic parents of the talented student athletes participating in sports for the CCS school year. The main goal for this club is to involve parents in volunteer roles in order to enhance the athletic department. Carolyn Roetman takes over the reigns of president this year. Also, Jill Pratt holds the position as the club's vice president, and Kellie VanSteenberg takes a hold of the secretary position. These determined ladies are thrilled to be a part of this club and are ready to tackle any issue that comes up within the sports department.

Out-of-Breath Alumni

By: Tyler Holm, Staff Reporter

The first ever alumni soccer game took place this year. Thirteen former CCS athletes showed up to play a game of soccer against Covenant's varsity team. The alumni ranged from those who just graduated all the way to some who graduated in 2007. The alumni team was coached by former Covenant coach Ruben Mâres. The game consisted of two twenty minute halves. The alumni started off strong, but due to the intense Texas heat, and not practicing soccer in it every day, they soon became tired and not as sharp. This was also the first time the varsity squad had scrimmaged an opponent all year, so this was a nice opportunity for them to work out some kinks. The first half was without a goal until Tyler Holm of the varsity squad put in a heading goal past former player Jaron Haas off of a corner from Jonathan Hansen. This goal ended the first half. Both teams were feeling the fatigue after the first half, especially the alumni. The second half began and the varsity continued to play well as freshman Hayden Pratt scored a goal from a Tyler Holm pass. Hayden's shot went past former all-state goalie Josh Hansen, to put the Varsity up 2-0. One more goal from the varsity was scored by Jonathan Hansen as he dribbled around a defender and put a goal in past his brother Josh to

So far this year, Booster Club has organized tickets and concessions for home games and two tournaments, hosted a hospitality room, and will soon offer Cougar shirts, jackets, and cinch bags. An email will be sent when these items are available for purchase. The black hoodies from last year are still available for \$15.00 (adult) and \$12.00 (youth) and can be purchased in the front office.

Parent involvement is a key to the success of this club. Every parent is encouraged and expected to contribute their time and talents. Many parents have done their share. Thank you! If you are a parent still waiting on the sidelines, do not hesitate to get involved in the game of Booster Club. The old saying, "Many hands make light work," holds true. Do your part today to bless the CCS athletes! 🙏

give the Cougars a 3-0 lead. In the final minutes of the game, the alumni mustered up one last attempt to score, and former all-state defenseman, Connor VanSteenberg, put one in for the alumni, ending the game with a final score of 3-1.

In the end, the game was not about winning or losing, but having a fun time of fellowship, which was thoroughly accomplished. The alumni game is hopefully going to become a new annual Covenant tradition, and according to Coach Wayne Allen, a barbeque may be an addition to the game itself. Overall, this game was a success and looks to be successful for many more years. 🙏

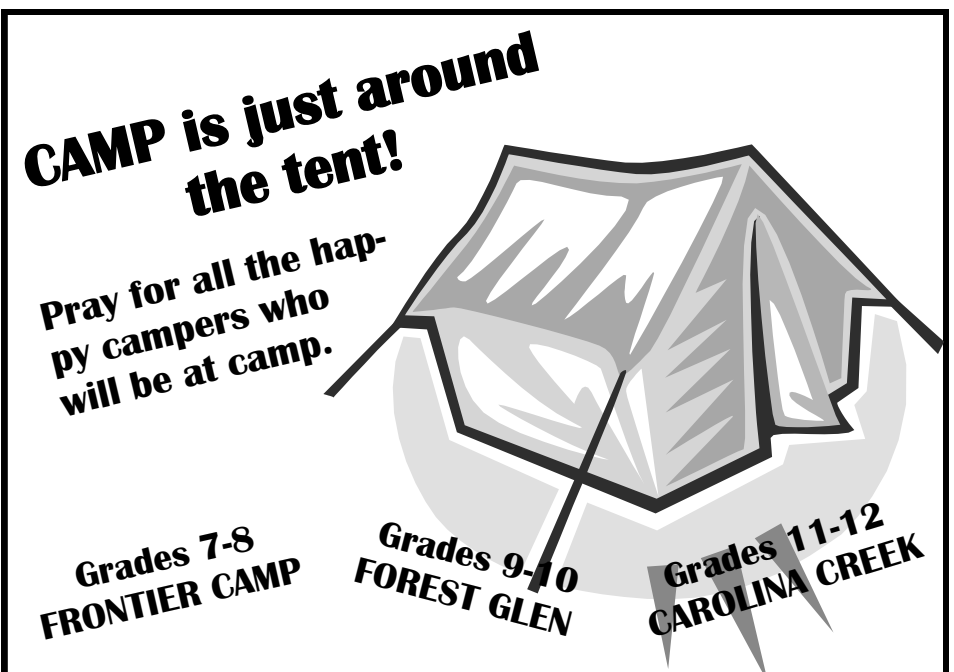
Football Frenzy

By: Nathan Mayes, Staff Reporter

This is the first year ever for Covenant to have a football team! There has been talk about bringing football to CCS, and this year the plan finally become reality. The plan is to have a successful program at the junior high level, and then move the program up to the varsity level.

The junior high football team had its first game on Tuesday, August 23, against the Alpha and Omega Lions. Their season started out with a bang as 8th grader, Robert Lynch returned the opening kick off for a touchdown! Blake Smith, 6th grade wide receiver, returned an interception for a touchdown for the Cougars last points. The Lions, who have had a junior high football team for several years, used their experience and came out on top with a 19-13 win. As the Cougars were driving inside the Lions' territory, they fumbled in the last minute to end the game. It was a great fight for the season opener. The Cougars, led by Wayne Allen, said this about the season opener, "The kids played hard especially the 6th graders. We just need to do a better job at tackling, special teams, and playing assignments."

The young team went on to beat Livingstones 46-0 on September 3. Coach Allen was very pleased with the performance, and everybody got to play. Coach Allen is excited and looking forward to the future. 🙏



October

- 4 PTF meeting in cafeteria at 2:00 p.m.
- 5-7 Secondary class trips
- 11 Vision/hearing screening
- 17 School board meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Noon dismissal for parent conferences
- 24 Golf/Walk-a-thon at April Sound Country Club
- 26 Vision/hearing screening
- 28 Christian Heritage Day
 - Noon dismissal for parent conferences

November

- 1 Picture retakes
 - PTF meeting in Cafeteria at 2:00 p.m.
- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends (fall back)
- 17-18 Junior play at the Crighton Theatre
- 21-25 Thanksgiving holidays
- 11/29-12/2 Book Fair in the CCS library

CCS Science Club

By: Rebecca Stanley, Staff Reporter

Students in the 2011-2012 school year have the opportunity to join the new CCS Science Club. All high school students may participate in the meetings and events. Science Club officers include: Rebecca Stanley, president; Parker Zaitz, vice president; Morgan Garvin, secretary; and McLane Zaitz, treasurer. Science Club's missions are to allow students to become involved in S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) related fields and learn about Creation in depth. On August 25, they performed a dissection of a sheep's eye, kidney, heart, and brain, in the science lab, where Mrs. Bolleter, a local veterinarian, came and explained all the functions and parts of mammalian organs. On September 3, Science Club traveled to the Health Museum in Houston, to attend the exhibition, Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination. For information on the CCS Science Club, contact any of the following: Mrs. Stephens, Science Club officers, the Science Club bulletin board, or <http://ccs-scienceclub.blogspot.com/>. ☼

Grand Ole Time

By: Tyler Holm, Staff Reporter

What do grandmas, grandpas, cookies, and singing preschoolers all have in common? They all combined to make a wonderful Grandparents Day at Covenant Christian School! The grandparents of many of the students at Covenant gathered on September 16 for a day dedicated just to them. The grandparents arrived around 11:00 to pick up their special ones for some nice time with their grandchildren over lunch. After some talking and good food, the grandparents and students returned for the Grandparents Day performance. The performance started out with the little tots in pre-kindergarten. They sang "We Love Our Grandparents" while being directed by the pre-kindergarten teachers themselves, Mrs. Snider and Mrs. Holm. After everyone in the crowd had their hearts touched by the overwhelming adorableness, kindergarten through third grade sang for their grandparents. Next up was the singing talents of the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. Both of these wonderful choirs were directed by Mrs. Fore. The junior

high choir, directed by Mrs. Smith, flexed their vocal abilities as they sang a few songs for their grandparents. The final performance of the day was by the reigning choir state champion Covenant's Praise Group, directed by Mrs. Smith, as well. The choir sang "Furaha", "Hava Nashirah", and "Walk Dem Bones". After a closing prayer by Head Administrator Mr. Weaver, the performance for grandparents concluded. The grandparents were then able to enjoy some cookies, see the children's classroom, meet teachers, and then take their grandchildren home for some extra time with them if they chose. After that, the day designated for grandparents ended, and the grandmas, grandpas, pops, paw-paws, maw-maws, and grannies all went home happy and with their hearts feeling good. ☼



Photo: TERA DUDLEY

SING JOY: CPG captivates the grandparents with their beautiful voices.