



# Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

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April 12, 2010

## Calendar of Events

### April

4/10--Spaghetti Dinner to Benefit  
:Mexico Mission Trip, 5-7 p.m., PV  
campus

4/17-22--Senior Mission Trip-Mexico

4/26-4/30-9th-11th Class Trips

4/28--Market Day Pick-UP, PV

### May

5/4--Grandparents Gathering, CV, 9  
a.m.

5/10--PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., PV

5/14--Parent/Teacher Conferences,  
No Classes, EC available--All  
school arts how during conferences

5/16--Board of Trustees Meeting

5/24--Spiritual Emphasis Day

5/26--Market Day Pick-Up, PV

5/27-6/3--Senior Final Exams

5/31--Memorial Day, School Closed

SEE [www.coventrychristian.com](http://www.coventrychristian.com) for  
sports schedules! Go Eagles!

## Why Should My Child Have To Read This?

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck."

Proverbs 1:8-9

21st Century Americans are arrogant. Perhaps we are not the sole offenders. A careful reading of history will reveal that the arrogance of the "modern" is nothing new. Mr. Shipman often likes to ask his students if ancient people were stupid. Truth be told, most of us act as though modern man is intellectually superior to the great thinkers of the past. It is one of the reasons why everyone wants to read the newest books on the New York Times Best Seller list--certainly the new ideas will be greater than the old ones.

When I was in middle and high school, no one ever told me why reading the classics was so important. No one ever inspired me to wrestle with the great books of the ancients and even the most challenging texts of our own time. In our eagerness to maintain student interest, we sold our literary and intellectual souls to pander to the juvenile tendencies of adolescence. In the 1970's and 80's, a new genre of literature was born out of this movement: adolescent literature. The revolution of adolescent literature has led to classrooms in which students read books about teenagers written to entertain and hold their interest, all for the lofty end of getting students to read. This is a noble goal, but it should not be the end of the literature curriculum. It should be the very beginning, accomplished shortly after a child masters his first chapter books. From there we must move on to a greater goal and the ultimate end of creating great thinkers in the next generation. This is accomplished by challenging our students with the classics.

Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes, "There is nothing new under the sun." A student of the classics knows the truth of Solomon's observation. Contemporary books never present ideas that are truly revolutionary. A logical rubric for evaluating contemporary ideas is provided by the great books of the past. Moses, Plato, Aristotle, Homer, Jesus, Paul, Augustine, Locke, and the parade of our ancestors who captured the essence of our biggest questions about life, meaning, purpose, and faith, provided a "leg up" for Donne, Shakespeare, Chesterton, Lewis, and even more recent authors bound for the classical canon. Likewise, these men provide us with the shoulders upon which we stand to reach even greater heights of wisdom and discernment as we live lives remarkably similar to theirs in a human community so similar to theirs that sometimes we are struck dumb by the profoundly relevant insights revealed by such thinkers who died generations, if not centuries before we were even born.

A classically trained student will encounter a “new” idea in relationships, politics, philosophy, religion, anthropology, or psychology and discover that such an idea has already been tested and failed or tested and passed the test of history and human experience. The classically trained student is equipped to think logically and to articulate a discerning critique as he stands upon the shoulders of those who thought about such things before him and who taught them so profoundly well. If a student is not classically trained, she will forsake the gifts given to her by her forefathers and will make blind decisions about important matters of life and community. A culture that does not value the classics is doomed to fail as its people will be tossed to and fro by every every wave of teaching (Eph. 4:14). Such a culture does not mature and provides no guidance to its children.

While CCS has always been committed to teaching the most important classical work in history, the Bible, we have not always been committed to the great books of human history that have complemented the greatest book in history. You may have noticed a change in much of the literature being read by your secondary students this school year. We have made a deliberate shift toward challenging our students to wrestle with the classics instead of spoon feeding them the Reader’s Digest version of history. We are reading more dead authors than ever before, and we are seeing great dividends. Student writing is improving because student thinking is improving as our young people are sitting at the feet of the greatest teachers mankind has seen. Last week I was walking through the library and was immensely satisfied by the scene that unfolded before me. Middle school students were sitting cross-legged (not cross-eyed) beneath our mural of *The School of Athens*, painted by the class of 2004, learning from the Greek philosophers. As I was giving a tour to a prospective family, I was dismayed to see middle school students on the floor in the library as well. I asked them what they were up to, to which they responded, “We’re just working on our Shakespeare plays.” My dismay turned to delight. The mind was created to be stretched, challenged, and stimulated to develop new biochemical structures for clear reasoning. We are committed to rigor for this very reason, and I am so pleased to eavesdrop on our students and to hear not only the logic but the rhetoric that they are now able to employ.

The writer of Proverbs tells us to revere the teachings of our fathers and mothers, for they will add beauty and honor to our lives. This lofty vision of beauty and honor in the lives of our graduates shines in stark contrast to the shallow and purely utilitarian education being offered across America today. If you wonder why your child has to read so many dead authors or has to look up so many words with every reading assignment, or why so many assessments are in essay format, this article is for you. It is important for us to partner together in the education of your child. Please let me know if you have ever have questions or ideas regarding our curriculum.

## Want to Help Improve the Sports Programs at CCS?

The first meeting of the new CCS Athletic Boosters will be held on Monday, April 26, 7 p.m., in the Pleasantview Chapel. The mission of the Boosters is to support and promote the CCS athletic activities, to promote school spirit, and to provide financial assistance to sustain and grow CCS athletic programs. Athletic Boosters membership is open to all CS parents, grandparents, staff, alumni, and parents and grandparents of alumni. At the first meeting, additional information about the organization will be provided, including information on the activities and fundraising for the 2010-11 school year. So if you have a child or grandchild that plays a sport at CCS, come on out and join the new CCS Athletic Boosters. Questions prior to the meeting can be addressed to Selena Knepp at 610-367-6560 or [lenabean38@comcast.net](mailto:lenabean38@comcast.net).

## Financial Aid Applications Due April 15; Don’t Miss This Important Deadline!

If you want to re-enroll your child but know that you will need financial aid for the 2010-11 school year, you must go to [www.ffna1.com](http://www.ffna1.com) to complete a financial aid application. Financial aid decisions will be made in May. Aid is limited, so late applications may not be accepted. You must still complete your re-enrollment form and pay the re-enrollment fee in order to reserve a spot for your child. Financial aid applications are not considered unless re-enrollment has been completed.

## Important Band Dates

The spring band rehearsal is just around the corner on Tuesday, May 25. In the meantime, practices for 4th grade and up will be held every Wednesday at 8 a.m. at Pleasantview until the concert. On the morning of the concert,

the band will practice at The Hill School Center for the Performing Arts from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The concert will be that evening at 7 p.m.

## Annual PTO Auction, April 17

Be sure to mark your calendars! The annual PTO auction is a great evening of fun and celebration of the CCS community. Invitations were sent home four weeks ago. If you did not get one, please give us a call so that we can get you the information needed to RSVP. This year's auction will be held at the French Creek Golf Club. If you have not been before, why not make this your first auction? It won't be your last!

## Spaghetti Dinner to Benefit Senior Mexico Trip, Saturday, April 10

The spaghetti dinner that was originally planned for March 26 has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 10, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The dinner will benefit the senior class as they work to earn the money needed to buy the materials for the house they will build for a homeless family in Acuna, Mexico. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Put it on your calendar and join in this service to a family that needs our help!

## 9th and 10th Grade to See *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

The 9th and 10th grade English classes will be traveling to Philadelphia on Thursday, May 6, to see Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

## High School Drama Students Travel to Broadway

The high school drama students are traveling to New York for a Broadway show on Wednesday, May 5.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences May 14

Be sure to make plans to come to parent/teacher conferences on Friday, May 14. The day can sneak up on us and make it hard to get off of work. Please plan now for this important day. A sign-up sheet for appointments will be coming home in two weeks. You will need to complete and return that form within a week of receiving it to guarantee your requested time window.

## Test and Project Calendar for This Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>5th</b>					
<b>6th</b>	Math quiz				
<b>7th</b>				Math test	
<b>8th</b>	Physical Sci. Element quiz		Spanish Quiz; English Summa, p. 400	Bible test	Algebra I test
<b>9th</b>	Biology test		Worldviews Test	Geometry test	
<b>10th</b>	Unit 6 Exam, Am. Lit.		Worldviews Test	Algebra 2 test	
<b>11th</b>			Worldviews Test		
<b>12th</b>			Worldviews Test	Unit IV exam, World lit.	