

# CCA TODAY

## RAMMING INTO THE SCHOOL YEAR!



Above: CCA tenth graders are headed to the Science Lab!



Right: Sixth graders are all smiles this morning!

## Meet Ms. Giacomarro

### JOCELYN JONES AND DORA WILLIAMS

Ms. JoAnn Giacomarro is the new elementary school principal here at Covenant Christian Academy! Before she came here, she worked with the Forsyth County School System for 25+ years.

When asked how she chose the teaching profession, Ms. Giacomarro shared, “I was inspired to go into teaching because as a child, I always struggled with reading, and at the time, teachers were not always able to provide the extra help some students needed.” For a long time, she felt as if something was wrong with her because she was not learning as fast as the other kids, so she told herself she would be a teacher to help make sure no kid ever feels like the odd-one-out.

When asked how she felt about starting at Covenant she said she was super thankful and excited to be with us. “I have always had a passion for teaching and when I retired from the public-school system, I felt as if I wouldn’t be happy without being around students. I am super blessed to be here!”

When Ms. Giacomarro is not at school, she’s spending time with her family and her puppy that she got from her favorite charity, Angels Among Us Pet Rescue.

In addition to spending time with her family, Ms. Giacomarro spends her free time reading her favorite book, the Bible, and she also likes to read self-help books. “I believe both are useful in learning how to help others.”

Ms. Giacomarro’s favorite Bible verse is “Train up a child in the way he should go and he will not depart from it,” (Proverbs 22:6). It is very important to her because her passion is teaching and educating young minds so she holds it near and dear to her heart.

Ms. Giacomarro loves being greeted so don’t forget to say hello when you see her in the hallways! She would love to meet you! On behalf of CCA, we welcome you with open arms! Thank you for all you do.



Mrs. Giacomarro pauses for a photo.

## Back to School

NICOLE TOGNARINA



Above: Elementary Teachers gather together to discuss upcoming events.

This year's Back to School event was held via Zoom. The event started with Mr. Friday sharing details about programs that provide the best support for Covenant Christian Academy. The first program is Adopt-A-Family, the second is Online Giving, third is using Shopping Rewards from Amazon, Publix, or other brands which offer this option, and finally, a scholarship program called GASSO, which is the most helpful way to support the school and families.

After that, Elementary Teachers broke out into Zoom sessions for their students and parents. During this time, they were able to go over class rules and expectations. We had the opportunity to ask a few teachers for some advice for upcoming students as they approach the new school year.

*Q: Overall, how was this year's Back to School Event?*

Mrs. Johnson: I thought it went well and was well-attended by families.

Mrs. Mosher: While I would have preferred to be in the presence of my class parents, I appreciated the opportunity to meet with them over Zoom. I'm thankful for the technology that God has given us that allowed us to see each other and the PowerPoint presentation that we'd prepared.

*Q: For a new student what would you say is important to focus on going into a new year?*

Mrs. Johnson: Make sure to learn the expectations and routines of the day.

Mrs. Mosher: Habits! Our habits of attention, responsibility, thoroughness, and habits of the Christian disciplines (time with Him and with other believers through worship, prayer, and the Word) are the keys to success!

*Q: What is the best way to start off a new school year?*

Mrs. Johnson: I like making school fun and enjoyable. I try to be positive and reinforce positive behavior. We work to create a safe place for them; they're all children of God and they are loved here.

Mrs. Mosher: Cover the school year in prayer!

*Q: How do you motivate your students?*

Mrs. Johnson: I use positive reinforcement, I try not to focus on the negatives. We have a weekly Bible verse, so a lot of times we will refer to a specific behavior, and then go back to the Bible verse to make sure we're following God's word. This week is "do unto others as they would do unto you" which is a perfect one for saying, "would you want someone to do that to you?" With all their behaviors, we always try to go back to the Word of God.

Mrs. Mosher: Through encouragement and laughter...and sometimes candy! LOL!

Like everyone else, we too are looking forward to a great school year! To Elementary Teachers and parents, thank you for making this year's Back to School Event a success.

## Ask'Em Baskam

JASON YUST AND ETHAN ZISSER

**We sat down with Mr. Baskam to ask him a few questions about the upcoming year. In addition, he provided advice for the school year and our new students.**

**Q: Do you have any extra plans for CCA?**

A: There are a few areas that we want to continue to add to. The school has been in great shape. Dr. Arnold and the leadership has done a wonderful job, and the board has been very supportive. We want to continue to get more and more resources for our teachers, so that they can teach more and more effectively. We would love to get to a point where we can start focusing on a building campaign and the like. In the short term, there are things like maybe a new playground. These things are in the planning stages, but we need to continue to do what we do well, and continue to ask ourselves how we can continue to find ways to improve and add upon that.

**Q: Do you have any advice for first-year students?**

A: Understand that your number one priority is your faith in Jesus Christ. If you have that, then everything else in life flows from that in general. That is of course why we are here. After that, you also hopefully will build confidence that you make a difference. We are a small school, and each of you makes a difference. Each of you brings a lot to the table. Each of you help shape our community. Having that knowledge hopefully builds confidence in new students.

**Thank you for your time Mr. Baskam. We look forward to all that is in store for Covenant Christian Academy.**

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JACKSON COOKE**

**KYLE GUTHRIE AND JACOB MAGNON**

Our Student Spotlight for this month’s edition of CCA Today is Jackson Cooke, an 18- year-old student who has started his senior year at Covenant Christian Academy (CCA). Jackson has attended Covenant since K4, making this his 14th year at the school. Jackson has big plans for the rest of his time at CCA, and even bigger plans after graduation.

While reflecting on his time at CCA, Jackson noted that “a lot has definitely changed, but over time, these changes have benefited people into having a more effective intellect, while leading them on the path to a brighter future.” In his 14 years here at CCA, Jackson has served on the Chapel Tech Team and Student Association Club. “Covenant has been such a great place to get to know people and to connect with them.” Here at CCA, inspiring the next generation of Christians is always a priority. Jackson believes that the most important thing that he has learned in his time here is strengthening his faith in Christ.

“Bible classes with Mr. Friday and Mr. Priest have really established me as a Christian and taught me to love the Lord.”

Jackson has been able to focus on the future because his relationship with Christ is cemented. Currently, a “digital artist and an aspiring filmmaker,” Jackson is looking forward to heading to the University of North Georgia to follow these aspirations. Jackson hopes to be a part of the Hollywood industry, as it “has always been a dream” for him. He also wants to “stand out and be a very stylistic creator” in his work.

Thank you, Jackson, for sharing your thoughts and time with us at CCA. We wish you well as share your God-given gifts and talents with the world.

# What’s Going On?

**FALL SPORTS ARE BACK!**

**JACOB MAGNON AND PEYTON PIPER**

We had the opportunity to ask the coaches of our three fall sports (Middle School and Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Soccer) their thoughts on the upcoming season.

**Q: What is the attitude heading into the season?**

A: Mrs. Moore (MS Volleyball): The attitude is very positive and hopeful... I’m hopeful about all of our sports this year, I’m hopeful about the school year, and the girls are really encouraged to actually get to play volleyball this year, because we didn’t play last year.

A: Mr. Friday (Varsity Soccer): I’m excited, because we haven’t had soccer in two years because of COVID, so I’m just excited to get a team back together again and go out and compete.

**Q: What goals do you have for this team this season?**

A: Mr. Priest (Varsity Volleyball): We need these girls to become a team, most of them have not played together, and so this season, because of our mutual “friend,” COVID, is almost sort of like an exhibition season. So, it's not about winning a title or winning a championship, it is more about planning for the future. So, if we can get the girls to come together as a team, and start mastering the fundamentals of volleyball, it will help us in the years to come.

A: Mr. Friday: As always, we want to use all of our gifts, athleticism, to honor God in that.

But also, just for team goals, I want to see our younger players and older players growing closer together, so they have, there’s always that social dynamic, but also just learning how to push hard through adversity, and hopefully also have some success along the way.

**Q: What kind of experience do you have in the sport? How will that help as the season moves forward?**

A: Mrs. Moore: I've had to play volleyball when I was younger in school. I enjoy watching it... it's been nice having to learn a lot with the girls, and actually having to practice myself, personally, outside of school, so that I can know what I’m telling them. Having Mr. Priest there and some other girls who've played in the past in high school has really made a difference for what I don’t know about the sport.

A: Mr. Friday: I played in high school, all through middle and high school, and I continue to play adult leagues. Old man soccer. It helps me understand the game, and I’m able to help the younger players understand how all the positions work together so that they can really get that teamwork down and grow together in that way.

**Hearing from our coaches gives a great insight to what the fall sports seasons may look like. Stay tuned for more coach updates as the season moves forward. Be sure to come out and support our teams! Go Rams!**

I sought the Lord, and He answered me,  
 And delivered me from all my fears.  
 They looked to Him and were radiant,  
 And their faces will never be ashamed.  
 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him  
 And saved him out of all his troubles.  
 The angel of the Lord encamps  
 around those who fear Him,  
 And rescues them.  
 O taste and see that the Lord is good,  
 How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Psalms 34:4-8



## Fighting Fear

CHANEL MOORE

Scripture Reference: Psalms 34:4-8

The first day of school, starting a new school, and making new friends can all bring fear. Maybe it wasn't those things, but fear of the future, fear of trying something new, or just fear in general. Whatever your fears may be, know that when you seek the Lord in the face of that fear, He answers. Yes, you can bring your fears to the Lord!

Today, you may not face fear or troubles, but just know that when you do, God is there to be your refuge (safe place). God is there to answer your cries and to save you from your troubles.

Are you battling fear? Have you prayed to God for deliverance and strength? Today, begin taking your fears to God and leaving them with Him. Keep track of every time you take your fears to Him and how He strengthens you.

Photo Credit: Luke Woods

## DAVEY DAYS

Pencil: Jayden Seard Shadows: Jackson Cooke. Writer: Cana Priest

