



# The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

November 2002



## Staff changes at the Grammar School

You may have noticed some additions to the staff at the Grammar School campus.

Amelia Kapur has moved upstairs next to the accounting office and is handling accounts receivable and overseeing human resource related areas. She will also be assisting with support for all fund-raisers, events and communications. Amelia is in her second year at The Geneva School and has a BA in Human Services from Cal. State San Bernardino.

Sara Ingram began working at the School this summer with special projects related to student records. Before the summer ended she was offered a full-time job as the School Office Coordinator and thankfully she accepted. She is directly handling prospective parent inquiries, student files and continued compliance with accreditation standards. Sara graduated from Furman

University this past spring with a degree in history.

Elizabeth Yawn joined us over the summer and has already become a tremendous asset to the school. Elizabeth received her BS in Accounting from Florida Southern College. With her she brings 25 years of accounting experience, having most recently worked with a local CPA firm. Through the years she has gained valuable experience in areas that include payroll, financial statements preparation, employee benefits and records, accounts payable and billing. In addition to those duties she will also be responsible for all budget reporting to the school's Finance Committee.

## Nota Bene

- November 1:** All Saints' Day Celebration
- November 7:** Noon Dismissal - Parent Teacher Conferences in the afternoon
- November 8:** No School - Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 11:** GPA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Grammar School Campus
- November 15:** Chili Cook Off - 6:30 p.m.(See page 8)
- November 22&23:** Booster Club Garage Sale (See page 8)
- November 26:** Progress Reports Sent Home (Grades 3 - 12)
- November 27 - 29:** No School - Thanksgiving Break
- December 12:** Christmas Program at Northland - 7:00 p.m.

## Announcements

**Moms in Touch.:** Moms from both campuses meet every Monday at 8:30 a.m. for an hour to pray for The Geneva School - students, parents, teachers, staff and board. Come as you are and join us in the Library at the Grammar School campus.

**The Geneva School  
Grammar School Campus**  
410 Ridge Road  
Fern Park, FL 32730  
407-332-6363  
407-332-1664 (Fax)  
FeedBack@GenevaSchool.org

**The Geneva School  
Dialectic and Rhetoric Campus**  
530 Dog Track Road, 400 Building  
Longwood, FL 32750  
407-830-7667  
407-830-7647 (Fax)  
Lauriemcardona@yahoo.com

# Grammar in the Grammar School

One of the distinctives of the education offered at The Grammar School is the firm grounding the students receive in the grammar of the English language. This grounding will serve them well not only through their school years but also throughout the rest of their lives.

Students are formally introduced to grammar in first grade using curriculum written by Brenda Shurley and aptly called *Shurley Grammar*. Author Brenda Shurley writes, "The Shurley Method uses repetition, fun, student/teacher interaction, and a concrete set of questions about each word in a sentence to teach students how all the parts of a sentence fit together. It is important to study how all the parts of a sentence fit together because students need to understand sentence structure in order to speak and write successfully."

In Miss Reeves' second-grade class the students are eager and excited to chant jingles, perform actions for different parts of speech and modify and improve their own sentences. Emily Myers, just one of the keen second-grade students says, "Grammar is fun and exciting. It helps me learn more about words and when to use them to make a point."

Beth Reeves believes the grammar curriculum chal-

lenges the students to write thoughtfully. She adds, "There are great benefits from studying the parts of speech. Students learn to write a descriptive, logical flow of ideas and it is a tremendous asset when learning second languages."

With a strong foundation in grammar from the previous five years of the Shurley Method, students in the sixth grade are able to move on to more advanced classification of sentences as well as apply and integrate grammar into their writing. Through the question and answer flow, small group work, and

individual assignments, students are exposed to a wide variety of terms, rules, styles, and formats. At this level the fundamentals of the Shurley Method are combined with the methodology and stylistic techniques of *Excellence in Writing* written by Andrew Pudewa, to begin developing more mature compositions. Mrs.

Mawhinney's, the sixth grade teacher, has the responsibility of preparing her students for the Dialectic, and ultimately the Rhetoric, stage of their educational careers. She comments, "It is exciting to see how the framework they have been given in the early grades shapes and enhances their ability to demonstrate a logical flow of ideas in their written work that also has an element of beauty."

## ***We love that Shurley grammar program!***

1. Who loves that Shurley grammar program? **We**, - *subject pronoun*
2. What is being said about we? **We love** - *verb*
3. We love what? *Program verify the noun*. Does program mean the same thing as we? **No** - *direct object verb transitive*
4. What kind of program? **grammar** - *adjective*
5. What kind of program? **Shurley** - *adjective*
6. Which program? **that** - *adjective. Subject noun, verb transitive, direct object, pattern two. Check*
7. Verb transitive. Check again. **No** - *prepositional phrases*.
8. **!** - *strong feeling exclamatory sentence*.
9. Go back to the verb. Divide the complete subject from the complete predicate.

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## ***Box Tops, Soup Labels and More!***

Many parents have asked if Geneva participates in the General Mills fund-raiser, "Box Tops for Education." We do - so please clip those box tops from the more than 330 participating General Mills products, and send them to the School any time throughout the rest of the school year. We are able to redeem 10 cents for every box top - up to \$10,000 per year. Ask family and friends to save their tops too - every penny helps! We are also collecting Campbell Soup labels so send those in too.

For those of you who like to shop on-line, many of your favorite on-line stores (Amazon, Lands' End, Barnes and Noble, just to name a few) will donate up to 10% of your purchase price to our school. Simply go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and make your purchase.

## INTRODUCING THE NEW PARENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENEVA SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS



### **Leigh E. Kennedy**

407-645-2870

**Husband:** Roger B. Kennedy, General Contractor

**Daughter:** Maggie - second grade (she has been at Geneva since kindergarten)

**Son:** Roger Patrick - five years old. He will start kindergarten next year

Leigh graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, in 1986 with a B.S. in art and Spanish. She worked for eight years in a family business as a sales coordinator (technical electronic sales of microelectronics). She earned an M.A. in Social Work in 1995 from UCF. While working for her Master's Leigh was employed by the Children's Home Society as a crisis counselor and then after graduation worked at Florida Hospital in radiation oncology as an on-sight oncology social worker. After the birth of her second child, Leigh left paid employment to stay at home with her children.

Leigh is passionately enthusiastic about the vision of The Geneva School and is eager to become more involved. She feels God has given her the gift of service, and she is very excited to be given the opportunity to work with the Board as a representative of the parents at Geneva. She believes God led her family to Geneva - they were not even considering private education - but after spending twenty-five minutes on a tour of the school three years ago, she felt a supernatural tug on her heart. She wanted her children to experience Geneva. Her husband felt similarly after he visited the school, and the rest is history!

She has complete faith in our Lord - His plan for Geneva, and her family's place at the School. She enjoys serving the

teachers, staff and administration, as well as the parents in her daughter's second-grade class where she is the room mother. Leigh served as GPA representative to Mrs. Phelan's first-grade class last year.

### **Christine M. Schutz**

407-339-8596

**Husband:** Alan Schutz, Priority Associates, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ

**Daughter:** Elizabeth - Ninth grade

**Son:** Zach - Sixth Grade

BBA, '81, Stetson University

Graduate work in finance, math, and computers

Chrissie and her husband, Alan, have been married for 20 years and have two children, Elizabeth (14) and Zachary (11). They are both on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ, specifically with the ministry of Priority Associates. Priority Associates ministers to the business and professional community.

After graduating from college Chrissie worked ten years full time and seven years part time as a paralegal with the primary responsibility of handling all of the firm's guardianship and estate files and real estate closings.

Chrissie has been involved with TGS since the moment her children first walked through the front door in the fall of 1996. Zach and Elizabeth have been at TGS since their kindergarten and third grade years, respectively, and are currently in the sixth and ninth grades. Additionally, Chrissie and Alan were involved in the initial group that started the Geneva Academy in DeLand.

During the time she has been at Geneva, Chrissie has taken on various jobs and responsibilities. She has worked as an aide to the first grade and was the office manager for three years. She was the sole producer and editor of the yearbook for two years, has served on the auction committee in some capacity every year, and has also worked with the Booster Club. Currently Chrissie coordinates the hot lunch program for both campuses and has begun working this year with the College Prep committee. She is also called upon to serve as a substitute at the upper school campus from time to time.

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# Coach's Corner



**DAN HARGER**

## COMMITMENT OF SIX

"It took all six girls making a real commitment to pull this thing off," said head volleyball coach Brandon Thomas, when asked about his thoughts on the season. What did they pull off, you ask? The best record in the program's four-year history for one thing. Far more impressive, however, was the manner with which they achieved that record. For those of you unfamiliar with the rules of volleyball, a team must have six girls on the court, to play. And six is just exactly what they brought. No more, no less, no excuses! To say the least, I was worried. Worried that other schools would travel to Maitland to find their scheduled opponents forced to for-

feit because one or two girls didn't show up. Somehow I let these girls convince me that that would not happen. "We'll be there" was the team's plea. Now, looking back, not only did they show up, they came to play, and play well. What we worried would be a black eye for the program turned out to be an inspirational performance that forced people to stand up and take notice.



For the second consecutive season varsity volleyball finished with more wins than losses, but it was their commitment to the coaches and teammates that made us all proud.

***Thanks for coming through girls.***



### **Varsity Volleyball Team**

Back Row - Brandon Thomas (Coach), Brittany Grace, Daniel Wayne, Brenna McConnell, Anna O'Connor (Coach)  
Front Row - Fran Cloke, Rachael Pennington, Stephanie Cuffell, Katie Eichelberger

### **Junior Varsity Volleyball Team**

Back Row - Fran Cloke, Abbie Beates, Elizabeth Ball, Brandon Thomas (Coach)  
Front Row - Valerie Tainsh, Neely Patton, Abigail Pugh, Rachel McKay  
Anna O'Connor (Coach) and Kelsey Tainsh are not present in this picture

## STEADY AND STRONG

The Geneva School soccer crew was busy this fall proving once again to be our school's steadiest team. Steadily improving year after year has become the theme for this big group of overachievers. And I do mean big! 18 players strong...most of whom, veterans of three straight seasons. I guess that fact would seem to explain the improvement. This group of guys (and girls) has worked diligently over the course of the season and has gotten better every day. Head coach Nevin Mawhinney and first-year assistant Mike McAvoy have



done a masterful job teaching the fundamentals, and is it ever paying dividends. I'm sure I speak for all the fans when I say that it has been a lot of fun watching this group of individuals develop into one cohesive unit - a lean, mean, fighting machine.

### Varsity Soccer Team

Jonathan Grace, Noah Bradon, Alex Cloke, Scot Ritchie, Jeb Beates, John Ritchie, Thomas Grace, JT Fridsma, Trevor Swanson, Kyle Lewis, John Shafe, Ellen Kimbrough, Laura Myers, Rachel Maynard, Megan Rutlegde, Heather Wayne, Katie Fridsma and Gingie Maynard,



## STIFF COMPETITION

The sixth and seventh grade volleyball team had an outstanding season when you consider the size of their competition: Trinity Prep, Lake Highland, The Christ School, Orangewood, and The First Academy. Wow, what a line-up.

You must be thinking that your athletic director is either out of his mind...or...maybe he just doesn't like sixth and seventh graders. I can assure you, it's certainly not the latter. You see, the league our girls competed in this fall originally included two additional schools, both of which were schools our size. When they both dropped out at the last minute....well, can you say David & Goliath? Only this time, despite one valiant effort after another, the Philistine giant was too great to overcome.



The girls all improved dramatically over the course of the season, and seemed to have a blast at both practice and games. "It was a learning experience for our girls - sort of a crash course," said first year coach Anna O'Connor. "Now, we know what it's all about, and next year, we'll be ready."

# Experiential Learning

Field trips and hands on activities play a very important role in the education offered at Geneva. Here are some photographs of students enjoying activities both at school and further afield



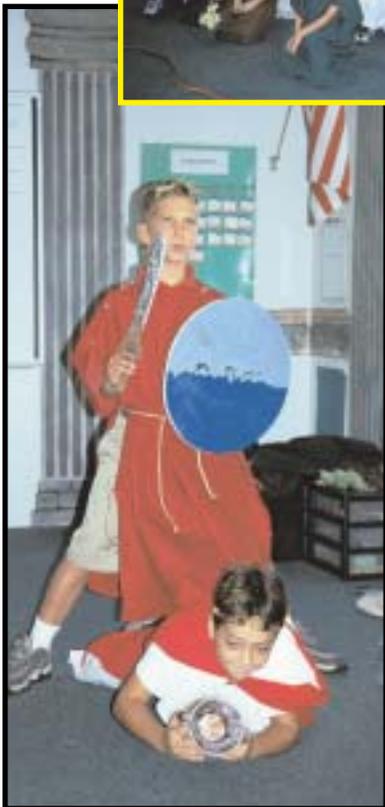
The farm came to school for the kindergarten students on Thursday, October 10.



The third grade students had a lot of fun on Friday, September 27, when they presented their play about the Trojan horse



Mr. Sweet and his fifth grade class had a wonderful day in St. Augustine on Wednesday, September 25





On Thursday, October 3,  
all the Dialectic and  
Rhetoric students spent the  
day at Splendid China

*Continued from page 3*

Chrissie has been passionate about classical Christian education from the moment she sat in Michael Eatmon's logic class the day she took a tour of the School. That evening she went home and read *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, by Douglas Wilson, cover to cover. It was after reading that book and praying with friends in DeLand that she knew God was calling her and her husband to enroll their children at Geneva. That first year they commuted every day from DeLand with four other families. She believes that God has blessed her family with a quality education for their children, which is preparing them to enter the world with the tools they will need to do His work for the Kingdom. She is also passionate about telling others about TGS and the unique educational opportunity that is available for their children. She is proud to be able to serve the School and the parents as their representative to the Board. She looks forward to how God will use her on the Board and how He is going to continue to work in and through the School as He uses it to further the work of His kingdom.

## **Sally Foster and Coupon/Entertainment Book Fund-raiser**

Thank you to all the families who participated in the Sally Foster and Coupon/Entertainment Book fund-raiser this fall. This was our best year ever - we raised in the range of \$7600 which is an almost 40% increase over last year.

Just over 60% of all families participated, but one family in particular sold so much Sally Foster gift-wrap that they deserve a special thank you. Walker and Morgan Calhoun sold gift-wrap and gifts to the value of \$876. Way to go, girls! (Thank you Mike and Felicia - I'm sure you had a hand in bringing in those orders too). Two kindergarten families went all out in selling the Coupon/Entertainment books - the Sarpu family and the Bonaventure family sold 23 and 19 books respectively - thank you Mike, Lila, Bruce and Gina.

The Sally Foster gift-wrap will be delivered to the School on Thursday, November 14.

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# Geneva Parents Association

TO ENRICH THE LIFE OF THE GENEVA SCHOOL THROUGH PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

by Gordon Cloke - GPA President

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One of the many distinctive and wonderful characteristics of The Geneva School is the extent to which parents are involved in the life of the School and welcomed into their child's classroom. It thrills me to know that Geneva does not typically suffer from the "parent-consumer" mentality that has Mom or Dad abdicating their own responsibility for their child's education or resorting to the role of a detached complainer. Parents, teachers, aides, administrators and Board members are united in a shared passion for education and excellence, a longing for authentic Christian witness, and a love for the children under their care. We may each have encountered exceptions, but I hope you will concur that, in this case, the exception really does prove the rule. Thank you so much to all of you who help to make this true.

Many of you attended the October meeting where, in addition to the regular GPA business, we were privileged to hear from art teacher Dale Wayne, who explained the implementation of the art program throughout the trivium. She brought with her many examples of the students' work, some of very striking quality (and all possessing at least a certain creative charm). Dale explained how the art program is synchronized with the history curriculum and pursued throughout with the understanding that every child is creative because he or she is made in the image of a creative God.

The meeting also included an abundance of information

about forthcoming school events and an update on recent activities of the Geneva Board. The GPA grade representatives conducted a short working session after the main meeting was adjourned in order to coordinate parental involvement in the All Saints' Day event.

Please plan to join us for our next GPA meeting on Monday, November 11, where we will hear from Father Michael Eatmon (currently teaching Philosophy and Apologetics to the Rhetoric students, erstwhile Academic Dean). In a message entitled Adorning Truth and Goodness with Beauty, Michael will be explaining how the Rhetoric phase of the trivium (grades 10-12) forms the capstone of the entire classical model. This talk will be important for everyone and of particular interest to parents with students approaching what are usually known as the 'high school' years. The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. at the Grammar school campus, finishing no later than 8:30 p.m.

Thank you to the several parents who have approached me with some excellent suggestions about how to improve the operation of the GPA. Several have already been acted on and others soon will be. Please keep the ideas coming!

With kindest regards and deepest gratitude,

*Gordon Cloke*

President, Geneva Parents Association, 2002-2003

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## Geneva's Annual Chili Cook-Off

**Friday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m.**

1451 Highland Road, Winter Park  
(home of Orman and Kay Kimbrough)

\$5 per person (adults only)

Compete in the Chili Cook-off competition or  
bring an appetizer or drink to share

**Tickets may be purchased from Sara  
Ingram at the Grammar School Campus**

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## Booster Club Garage Sale

**Friday, November 22**

**&**

**Saturday, November 23**

at the home of Roger and Leigh Kennedy  
633 North Longview Place, Longwood

It's time to clean out your closets in time for Christmas!  
Bring your tax deductible donations to the School.  
If you have large items to donate please call Leigh  
Kennedy at 407-869-6347