



The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

January 2003



Leadership at the Dialectic and Rhetoric Campus

No one can deny the fact that being without a Headmaster and a Dialectic and Rhetoric Principal to give leadership to the teachers, administrators and students has been a challenge for Geneva this year. However, God has provided people to fill the gaps in a remarkable way.

At the Grammar School, Martha Tate has been doing a wonderful job, acting as Grammar School Principal as well as giving overall leadership to the whole school. She has an excellent team of administrators to help her in this task : Kay Kimbrough (Curriculum Director); Amelia Kapur (Administrative Assistant) and Sara Ingram (School Office Coordinator).

At the Dialectic and Rhetoric School Laurie Cardona has been a pillar of strength and support for the

teachers and students this past year. We also must thank Laura Grace Alexander, Marjean Ingram and Elise Maynard for giving leadership and guidance at this campus during the fall.

Beginning in November Susan Titcomb took over the post of Dialectic and Rhetoric Principal and is working full-time in this capacity. Susan comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in the areas of leadership, classical education and a great love for children and her Lord. Susan earned a B.Sc. in Marketing from the University of Central Florida and worked in retail management for three years before her first child, Brenton (eleventh grade), was born. After the birth of her second son, Isaac, in 1987 Susan became involved with Bible Study Fellowship and assumed various leadership positions throughout her twelve-year tenure. In 1990 Susan was given the blessing of a spe-

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January 6	School Begins
January 12 - 18	PSA Advertising on Z88.3
January 12	GPA Meeting - 7 p.m. at the Grammar School Campus
January 17	Special "Bring a Friend" Mothers' Brunch
January 17	End of 2nd Marking Period
January 20	NO SCHOOL - Teachers Records Day
January 24	Report Cards Sent Home
January 27	Open House for New Families

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

cial needs child, Olivia. "The combination of God's Word being poured into my heart daily, the wondrous working of the Holy Spirit, and the challenges of being a mom of three very different children is what God has used to draw me closer to Him."

In the spring of 1995 Susan and a small group of other Deland residents (including Alan and Chrissie Schutz) started meeting together to pray about the prospect of starting a "Geneva" school in Deland. In the fall of 1997 many of the parents made the commitment to car-pool their children down to Fern Park to attend The Geneva School. In the fall of 1998 The Geneva Academy opened its doors, and all three of her children were enrolled. Susan has been involved with The Geneva Academy since its inception, participating in the board meetings for a short period, writing the weekly school newsletter until a full-time Headmaster arrived, and helping to establish and organize fund-raising events. When it became obvious that Olivia's needs were too great for the School to handle, Susan began to home school Olivia and prayerfully wait on the Lord to reveal what future steps for Olivia's education they should take. Since The Geneva Academy accommodates only students in kindergarten through eighth grade, many of their

graduates commute to TGS to continue their education, including Susan's eldest son Brenton.

Susan has a passion for children and for the teachers who teach them. Her training and teaching obtained through Bible Study Fellowship have given her a very firm grounding in scripture and a love for God and his sovereignty. The principle: "God and God alone!" has been her rock through her toughest circumstances in life. "It puts all of my relationships and all that I say and do into perspective for me." Susan is a very loving and approachable lady for students, teachers and parents alike. God has gifted her with great leadership skills meshed with a very caring and compassionate heart.

Her desire is to fan the existing flames of passion in her staff and student body for The Geneva School. "The Geneva School has many great things ahead that as always are to be looked at through the telescope of Eternity." Susan recognizes that the School has suffered many losses this year and desires to help reestablish support amongst students, teachers and parents. The high standard of education (teachers as well as content), and the hearts of the students are her top priorities for The Geneva School.

New Building Update

On December 16, 2002, preliminary plans were submitted to the City of Casselberry to begin their project review process. The Planning and Zoning Committee is scheduled to meet on January 8, 2003, and we anticipate approval for land use as the new campus for The Geneva School. On January 22 the Development Review Committee will review the preliminary site plan. With this approval, final plans and specifications will move forward to completion.

If consent is received for the preliminary plans and the property is rezoned in Geneva's favor, then the actual property purchase will take place sometime during January or February.

At the time of closing we are going to need \$250,000 in the bank. We will also need firm pledges for the remaining \$500,000 - \$250,000 of which will be required by September of 2003 and the other \$250,000 by May of 2004.

Please pray for a good relationship between the City of Casselberry and The Geneva School as well as expedient resolutions to any planning and zoning questions/issues. Also pray that God would work through His people to raise the necessary funds and move forward with the development of this property as a wonderful campus for The Geneva School that will house grades K - 12 by August 2003.

3 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign

Anonymous Gift	\$1,500,000
Matching Gifts (pledged by 12/31/02)	\$ 750,000
Total Capital Campaign	<hr/> \$2,250,000
Financing	\$2,250,000
Overall Need	<hr/> \$4,500,000



THE GENEVA SCHOOL



With our own facility in sight for the start of the next school year this is a very exciting time in the life of The Geneva School.

This strategic move accomplishes several key goals for the School:

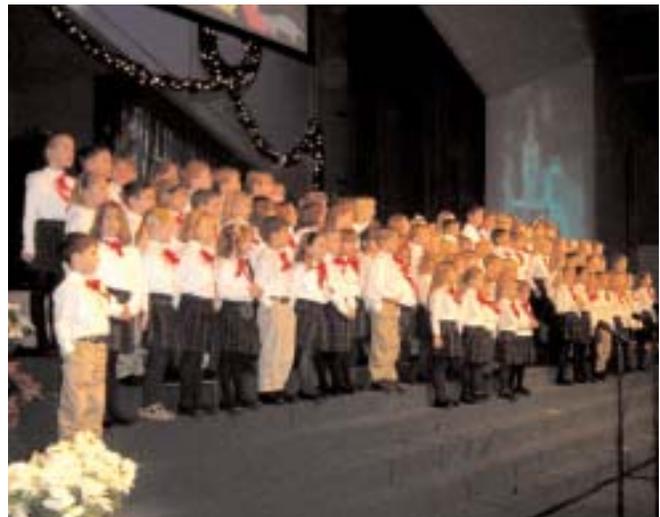
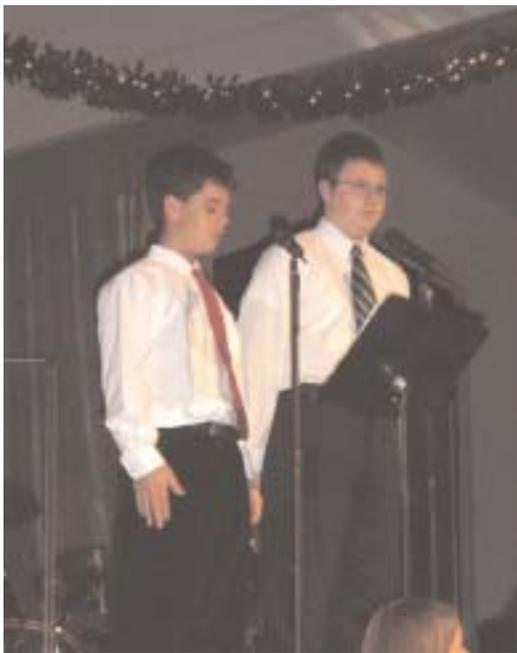
1. It provides a place for us to call "Home," where both campuses can be together under one roof.
2. It gives us heightened visibility and name recognition with its prime location.
3. It allows us to be better stewards and have the same amount of our current rent applying to ownership of the property.
4. It makes it possible for us to "grow our base" up to 400 students before moving to the next step of a larger location with more land.

Raising the money needed to pay for Geneva's new campus will take a commitment from all the Geneva family. Whether you can commit to give a lot or a little please join the team and send your pledge form to the School office as soon as you are able.

The building committee is also accepting gifts in kind. If you have ideas of ways you or a friend may be able to help the School please contact Martha Tate.



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The Geneva Parents Association

is delighted to present at its
January meeting

***The Trivium and the Kingdom:
the convergence of Classical Education
and Reformed Theology***

by
Rev. Russ Kapusinski

Monday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Grammar School Campus

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Russ is the Youth Pastor at St. Pauls
Presbyterian Church in Winter Park and
teaches bible to 7th and 8th grade students
at Geneva.

Annual Faculty and Board vs. Student Basketball Game

This very popular and exciting
event has been scheduled for
Friday, February 28, at the First
Presbyterian Church of Maitland.

Mark your calenders and plan to
attend.

Dinner will be served before the
game.

Geneva's Annual Auction will be held on April 5

Two things make an auction a success - lots of
quality items to auction and lots of people to bid
on them. Please mark your calendars and begin to
think of friends, family members and business
associates you can invite to this event.

The lists below gives lots of ideas for auction items
that have proved popular in the past, just to stimu-
late some creative thinking. The sky is the limit.
Take a few minutes now to think about how you
could help make this the best auction ever. The ear-
lier in the year that we ask the more likely we are to
get a positive response. No item or service is too
small (or too large). We will send official letters of
gratitude to all who donate.

IDEAS FOR AUCTION ITEMS/DONATIONS

Tickets - lots of sporting events, concerts, theater,
ballet, opera.

Travel opportunities - weekends, BED &
BREAKFASTs, plane tickets, cruise tickets, beach
condos.

Talents - handyman for a day, catering, wallpaper a
room, evening of babysitting.

Attractions - Disney, Sea World, Universal,
American Gladiators, go-carts, the Zoo, skating.

Services - haircuts, lawn service, pest control,
piano lessons, piano background music, catering.

Retail - gift certificates, products, jewelry, food
products, furniture.

Restaurants - most frequented restaurants, special
occasion, fast food.

Collectibles - art, antiques, silver, sports memora-
bilia.

The sky is the limit. Be creative. Talk to us. Many
times we combine items to make great auction
packages. Thanks for your help.

The Search for a New Headmaster

Back in September of 2002 a Headmaster Search Committee was formed to oversee the task of searching for a new headmaster for The Geneva School. This very significant task regarding the future leadership of the School was taken on by: Michael Eatmon, Lynne Hilborn, Bob Ingram, Kay Kimbrough, Carlene King, Michele Lewis, Elise Maynard, Chrissie Schutz, Dayle Seneff, Crossland Stuart and Martha Tate.

They have met four or five times since September, initially working on a strategy of how to promote Geneva's need to a national audience and how to go about acquiring names of potential candidates. They talked and documented the qualities Geneva would be looking for in a future Headmaster both professionally and personally. They refined the job description of the Headmaster and compared search documents from other classical Christian schools also searching for a new Headmaster.

In October the Board met with Pat McMillan, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Team Resources, Inc., who strongly recommended that Geneva hire a search company to help find a well qualified candidate who would be a good match for Geneva. Subsequently the Board voted to spend the money necessary to secure the services of a search agency. After interviewing various national firms they settled on the Robert W. Dingman Corp. Bret Dalton, one of the principals of the agency, has visited Orlando a couple of times and met with the Board as a whole and each member individually. He has met with administrators, teachers, the search committee and has spent time on both campuses. His primary objective during these visits was to get to know the School and define what type of person Geneva is looking for in a Headmaster. He has also helped the search committee to further refine the search documents that will be used to promote Geneva and interest prospective candidates.

This is not the first time that the Robert W. Dingman Corp. has worked for a classical Christian school. In fact through their work with another school they have built up a national listing of potential candidates for top level administrative positions with schools such as Geneva.

The goal now is for Bret Dalton to present a list of potential candidates to the Board and search committee over the next weeks and months. Weekend interviews will then be scheduled with candidates in the hope of hiring someone to start at Geneva in June.

The search is a process involving many steps and stages.

The Board is very confident that it has retained the professional services of a proven company and much has already been accomplished. It is good to be reminded that this is, however, a spiritual endeavor. Bret Dalton, who is conducting the search, shares the Geneva vision and Christian commitment. He is conducting his work prayerfully and it is very important that we support all the levels of activity among the Board, search committee and search company with our prayers. Please pray regularly for this ongoing work.

Pat MacMillan

Pat MacMillan is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Team Resources, Inc. He is sought out by organizations ranging from the Fortune 500 to national Christian ministries for his expert consultation in charting courses through the turbulent waters of change in the competitive global marketplace. Pat's insight and experience have proven invaluable to clients as he works with management, helping them create and implement team-based organizations and systems to deliver new levels of success.

Pat is the author of *Hiring Excellence - Six Steps to Making Good People Decisions* (Navpress) and *The Performance Factor - Unlocking the Success of Teamwork* (Navpress).

Last October the Board and administrators from the School were privileged to meet with Pat one evening over a working dinner. Board governance issues were discussed as well as the urgent task of searching for a new Headmaster. Much time was spent talking about the qualities Geneva is looking for a Headmaster and how the School should go about this task. They also considered the personnel, governance and facilities challenges facing the School as it grows. Pat also provided materials from a company called *Board Source* that specializes in helping boards of non-profit organizations. It was his recommendation that the Board pursue the course of retaining a nationally-based executive search company in order to hire a new Headmaster. Pat also assisted in the selection process, helping the Board choose among a number of companies that were interested in working with the Board.

Pat is still interacting with the Board and has agreed to come back and meet again to discuss governance principles in greater detail.

Enrollment for the 2003/2004 School Year

If you have children that are not currently enrolled at The Geneva School but are planning on enrolling them next year, now is the time to apply. This is particularly important for families hoping to enroll their children in kindergarten. The application form for new students can be found on the School web site at www.genevaschool.org on the admissions page or from Sara Ingram at the School office. A \$100 application fee is due at this time.

We are issuing a special invitation for you to invite your friends who may be interested in Geneva to a special Mothers of Geneva Friends Brunch to be held January 17, at which time Geneva's educational philosophy and vision will be explained. After the brunch we will be giving tours of the school and allowing them to see the classical model in action. We will have special invitations available for you to give to your friends. We wanted you to have the first opportunity to bring your friends in with you before we open things up to the broader Orlando community.

During the second week of January, we will be advertising The Geneva School to a wider audience via a slot on Z88.3. On Monday, January 27, we will be hosting an open-house for families responding with an interest in Geneva. We anticipate that this extra advertising, along with the fact that we will hopefully be in our own facility next year, will attract many new families to the School. Any initial applications from existing families not received before January 12 will be competing for space with new families. Testing for all prospective students will begin in February and following a student's formal admission to the School, a \$100

registration fee will be due.

Registration for families planning to re-enroll their children will be due February 15th.

A tuition deposit of \$500 per student is due March 15 or for new students, two weeks after being formally accepted. Failure to pay required fees on time may result in the loss of a secured spot in the class and a forfeiture of fees paid.

***Be listening to
Z88.3 during the
week of January
12 - 18***

The Board has set aside a portion of the School budget for scholarships. The Geneva School uses the services of the Family Financial Needs Assessment (FFNA) program to independently determine scholarship eligibility. Scholarship forms are available from the school office or registration can be completed on-line at www.ffna.com. The

deadline for mailing applications for scholarships is March 7. Please mail your applications directly to FFNA and not to the School. FFNA will make their assessment a short time after the deadline and send their recommendations to the finance committee at which time families will be notified. Late applications will miss this initial assessment and may receive a lower level of scholarship.

A decision on tuition rates for next year will be made in January. As soon as they are determined, the new tuition rates for the 2003/2004 school year will be posted on the School web site.

The application and fee schedule laid out above can be found in the Parent Handbook, section 3.13.

An Open House

will be held on

Monday, January 27, 2002

9:30 a.m. at the Grammar School Campus

Please invite anyone you know who is interested in The Geneva School to this event.

Parents with Dialectic and Rhetoric students will also visit the Upper School campus after the initial presentation.

Calling all Moms

Please invite your girlfriends to a special
Mothers Brunch

to be held on Friday, January 17, at the
Grammar School campus

Geneva's educational philosophy and
vision will be explained and time allowed
for questions.