



# The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

March 2003

## PROGRESS CONTINUES FOR TGS

By Bob Ingram, Chairman of the Board

Change always occurs, whether we desire it, plan for it, or attempt to stop it.

Progress is quite another thing. Put simply, progress is intentional change.

If one word could describe the activity currently taking place at The Geneva School, it would be progress.

The progress taking place on the new school site is measured daily. Since the successful completion of our six-week-long capital campaign, during which you, the School, raised \$2.25 million, we have completed the exterior civil engineering, the interior space utilization plan and architectural renderings, inventoried every single book, desk, table, chair, computer, and teaching resource owned by the School, been approved by the city of Casselberry zoning and planning council, arranged financing for the remaining mortgage, compiled a business pro-forma for the next several years of daily operations, successfully completed another financial audit and management letter, closed on the property (scheduled for February 28th), let out competitive bids, chosen a general contractor, secured building permits, and are on schedule for the renovation of the building to begin on March 3, 2003, and for its completion in time for the start of school next fall.

The progress in the growth of the student body continues with the announcement that beginning in the fall of 2003 we will have a K-4. There is also the very real prospect that we will have a third kindergarten class because of the high number of applicants for next year. In addition we will need to have a second third-grade class, accommodating the natural growth of the student body.

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### Nota Bene

- March 2:** An Afternoon of Appreciation for Dialectic and Rhetoric Parents at The University Club in Winter Park, 3 - 5 p.m.
- March 6 - 9:** Senior Trip
- March 7:** Deadline for filing application with FFNA
- March 10:** GPA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Grammar School Campus. Special Presentation about the History of TGS.
- March 12:** Candid Black and White photographs taken at Northland Campus by Katie Kaufman
- March 13:** End of Third Grading Period
- March 14:** NO SCHOOL - Teachers' Records Day
- March 17 - 21:** SPRING BREAK
- March 23 - 31:** Europe Trip
- March 26:** Candid Black and White photographs taken at Grammar School Campus by Katie Kaufman
- March 28:** Report Cards Sent Home.

### 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.

**Application for Tuition Scholarship:** Please note that the deadline for filing an application for scholarship with FFNA, for the 2003/2004 school year, is Friday, March 7. Scholarship packets can be picked up at either campus. Applications will be accepted after this deadline but we ask that all returning families do their utmost to file by this date. It will take about a month for FFNA to make their recommendations and for the Board to approve the scholarships offered.

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407-332-6363  
407-332-1664 (Fax)  
FeedBack@GenevaSchool.org

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Dialectic and Rhetoric Campus**  
530 Dog Track Road, 400 Building  
Longwood, FL 32750  
407-830-7667  
407-830-7647 (Fax)  
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# ACCELERATED READER

You may have heard your child chatter about a new program at Geneva called Accelerated Reader. AR is a research-based program designed by Renaissance Learning to encourage a love and excitement for reading, improve critical thinking skills, and increase reading comprehension. Research has shown a direct correlation between frequent reading and improvement in other areas such as vocabulary, composition, and spelling. We desire that our children read, read, read!

A list of worthwhile books with computerized tests has been compiled. Students in first through sixth grade may earn points by reading books from the list and taking a quiz on their classroom computer. Each book is rated and assigned points according to its length and level of difficulty. Students should choose books appropriate for their age and reading ability.

## ***How does AR work? It's as easy as ABC!***

**A** Your child will choose a book from the official book list, a copy of which is kept in the classroom and in the library. To ensure an appropriate reading level, the teacher must approve the book.

**B** After reading the book your child will take a comprehension quiz on the computer and receive immediate feedback on the results.

**C** Your child's teacher will assign a certain number of points or a certain number of books that are required for each grading period. Completion of this requirement will be included in the Literature/Reading grade.



## ***Where are the books found?***

Mrs. Meuther, our school librarian, has helped tremendously in setting aside books from the list on a special shelf in the library. However, if the book chosen is not in the Geneva library, then your local library is a good source. Should you choose to purchase a book, please consider donating it to The Geneva School library after your child has finished reading it - we would welcome this enthusiastically. A bookplate with your child's name as the donor would be placed in the front of the book.

## ***What comes next?***

In the coming years, as the budget allows, we plan to purchase Literacy Skills Tests for each book. These quizzes measure proficiency and progress in mastery of twenty-four literacy skills. These will add an important dimension to the program.

Mrs. Meuther will shortly be starting an AR Points Club. More information about this will be forthcoming.

## ***What can I do?***

Take the challenge! Turn off the TV! Encourage your child to read; let him see you reading; read together as a family; revel in well-crafted sentences and well-told stories; enjoy the beauty, variety, and power of the English language!

# Basketball Round-Up

## Boys' Varsity (Coached by Don Worden)



The Geneva School boys' varsity basketball team made significant strides throughout the season and finished the year playing some really great basketball.

The season started strong with close victories over Calvary Christian and Trinity

Christian, and two very lopsided wins against Halifax Academy and Foundation Academy. The players also dropped a last second heart-breaker against traditional power-house Heritage Prep.

After the Christmas break, as well as coping with a very tough schedule, the team faced several injuries, including a season-ending foot fracture to starting center Patrick McClanahan and a reoccurring back injury to the team's leading scorer, Steve Kaminiskie. However, the Knights played their hearts out and won three of their last six games to finish the season 9-12.

The team was led in scoring by Steve Kaminski (11th grade), in



rebounds by Todd Bledsoe (12th grade) and in assists by Jeb Beates (12th grade). Significant contributions were also made by Jason Hilborn (8th grade), Johnathan and Thomas Grace (9th grade) and Madison Meyer (9th grade). Near the end of the season J.T.

Fridsma (9th grade) and Preston Searl (8th grade) also saw significant playing time.

The team made great strides and improved tremendously from game to game throughout the season. The younger players confidently stepped up when the mid-season injuries occurred, and the playing time that they saw will definitely add to the success of next year's team. We will definitely miss our seniors, but the future of Geneva basketball is in great shape!

## Girls' Varsity (Coached by Dru Fridsma)

The Lady Knights ended the season with an exciting single-point victory over Foundation Academy to finish 7-10 for the season. After a good start, the team struggled after the Christmas break, dropping six of their first seven games in January. Four of those losses were by six points or fewer,



including a heart-breaker in overtime to Trinity Christian. The Lady Knights were led by Senior Captain, Katie Fridsma, who had the best season of her career. She led the team in scoring three times, including a personal-best 17 points against Lighthouse Academy. She averaged 6 points per game, and led the team in free throw attempts and assists. She also played outstanding man-to-man defense when called upon to shut down the opponents' best players.

Junior Co-captains, Brittany Grace and Rachael Pennington, completed the foundation for this young team. Brittany was the top scorer for the season with 155 points. She led the team in rebounding 16 of the 17 games, and had an amazing 6.1 blocks per game. She recorded the team's only triple-double against Warner Christian with 18 points, 13 rebounds and 12 blocks!

Rachael Pennington teamed up with Rachel Maynard (9th grade) to apply aggressive and irritating (for the other team) full court pressure. The two of them had a combined seven steals per game. Point guard Laura Myers (9th grade) led the team in scoring in five games. She played the last three critical minutes of the Foundation game without a turnover, and scored what would prove to be the winning basket that game. The third of the 9th grade trio, Liz Schutz, was perhaps the steadiest all-around player of the season. She led the team in shooting percentage (40%), and was 2nd in free throw percentage, rebounds and blocks. She could always be counted on to "get back" in transition and play great position defense.

Katie Eichelberger made the greatest strides during the season. An eighth-grader who had never played a game before, Katie was a very coachable, fast learner who improved in every area of the game. She made the game-saving steal to seal the victory in our last game.

Besides learning a little more about the game of basketball, hopefully the girls had some fun along the way. Their coach certainly did!

### ***Middle School Boys (Coached by Dan Hickman)***

The Geneva School's Middle School boys' basketball team finished the year with marked improvement. The team struggled against more advanced competition through most of the season, but continued to persevere even during the tough times.

Nick Heinkel was the team's leading scorer, and Parker Harris led the team in rebounding. Brad Shepherd was the team's best ball handler and was great at penetrating the defence. Bennett Robinson was a terrific shooter and even beat the coach at "Knock-Out" more than once! Jono Seneff and Zac Schutz were the team's defensive specialists with Jono leading the team in steals. Ryan Stanley had a



great competitive spirit and was an amazing rebounder of the ball. Jonathan Spilman came through the season as the "Most Improved Player."

Congratulations to all the team - they played their hearts out at every game and displayed true sportsmanship. With most of the team expecting to return next year, the Middle School Knights look set to improve greatly after this rebuilding year.

### ***Middle School Girls (Coached by Bradford Phalen and Amelia Kapur)***



"Froggie!" "Penelope!" "School 'Em!" These play names give you a little insight into the FUN season that was had on the girls' JV basketball team. Along with much fun and silliness, the team grew spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially. Spiritually, they all hid the team verse, Colossians 3:17 ("And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.") in their hearts, and the players really lived it out on the court.

In their prayer huddles, the girls often thanked God for legs and arms and hearts that work and that enable them to play the wonderful sport of basketball. Christ was the center of their team!

Physically, they all got in shape with many line drills, and each one of the girls got a lot of playing time with only 7 on the team!

Mentally, the players really learned the strategy, academics and mechanics of the game. The coaches were very proud of all the team, especially those who had never played basketball before!

Socially, the team bonded and became very close friends. They all hope to continue to play basketball together in the future.

**A few highlights of our season:**

Abbie Beates: 14 points in the Trinity Christian game

Fran Cloke: A huge grin from ear to ear after each basket made

Jordan Kong: A three point "swisher" at the buzzer to secure our victory in the last game of the season

Neely Patton: Defensive force in all games

Ellen Kimbrough: Dominating screens to open up clear lanes to the basket

Rhianna Wardian: About ten steals per game

Rachel McKay: Sweet assists to her teammates

***Cheerleading (Coached by Katie Sullivan)***

**Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate?** The Geneva School cheerleaders!



What a devoted, hard-working, enthusiastic

group of girls we had this year. Led by team captain Heather Wayne, the girls (Gingie Maynard, Stephanie Cuffel, Brenna McConnell, Christalyn Steers, Melissa Stevens, and Casey Vaughn) performed entertaining dances, stunts, and cheers while wholeheartedly chanting for the Knights to win their basketball games. The girls also organized and ran the annual cheerleading clinic for Geneva's Grammar School students as well as a first-ever Valentine's Day Sadie Hawkins dance for the Dialectic and Rhetoric students. This year's squad were creative, talented, spirited encouragers, and faithful godly young women. We are so proud of them!

***First Place Finish***

On February 15, 2003, Blake and Benjamin Habicht participated in an elementary school running event at Cranes' Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. Competing students represented schools from all over Orange and Seminole Counties. Both Blake (who ran as a representative of The Geneva School) and Benjamin earned first place honors in their respective age groups.

Geneva's track club, which had met in previous years, sparked the Habicht brothers' interest in running. Although the club has not meet this year, both Blake and Benjamin have continued to train independently. Their diligence and determination is to be commended. Blake's time for the mile was a staggering 6:16 and Benjamin's an amazing 6:52.



# St. Valentine Cheer



St. Valentine inspired a fun-filled weekend for many Geneva students this year. It began with students raising funds for their trip to France in March by selling Valentine Grams. For \$1 a piece students and parents could send a special Valentine greeting to a loved one with a message - in French, of course - attached to a box of candy or a sweet smelling carnation.

## ***Valentines Dance***

Friday, February 14, saw the first ever Valentine's Day Sadie Hawkins Dance organized by the Cheerleaders. Seventh through twelfth graders dressed up for the evening and danced the night away at the First Presbyterian Church in Maitland. Congratulations to the Cheerleading squad for having the spirit to initiate and organize such a wonderful social opportunity for the older students.





## ***Cheerleading Clinic***

On Saturday, February 15, the cheerleaders dragged themselves out of bed and again headed for Maitland - this time to run a cheerleading clinic for forty-four Grammar School girls. The girls learned cheers and dances and also painted T-shirts in readiness for their grand performance at the Student vs. Faculty/Board basketball game on Friday, February 28.

As if that wasn't enough to pack into one weekend, on Saturday evening the cheerleaders hosted a party for the girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams.

**Way to go cheerleaders - you certainly know how to lead the cheer at Geneva.**

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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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As president of the Parents Association at The Geneva School, I am fond of telling people that the level of parental involvement at Geneva is one of its compelling distinctives. I have recently become convinced that 2003 represents a high water mark in the level of that involvement, at least for the seven years that my family has been involved with the School. In the classroom, on special projects and events, at GPA meetings and wherever I turn, parents are putting forth extraordinary efforts to be involved in their child's education and to prosper The Geneva School.

Fortunately, these two aims are in complete harmony. The Geneva School is so much more than just a neat little Christian school with some great teachers; it is a project that many of us believe will not only equip our own children to serve the Lord in their chosen vocation, but - Lord willing - has the potential to have a transformational impact for the gospel for many generations to come. It is that larger vision which energizes so many of us, and it is therefore a great pleasure to work hard for something we really believe in. As the School prepares for a physical move to a single campus, there will be even more opportunities to participate!

I am glad to report that the February GPA meeting was a tremendous success! Mrs. Carol Reaves and Mrs. Robin Candeto, our dynamic Kindergarten duo, gave a wonderful presentation entitled "How is the Geneva Kindergarten like a Kaleidoscope?" We were particularly happy to welcome a number of newly enrolled and prospective parents, who took the opportunity to tour the classrooms and chat with Carol and Robin. We also received a very encouraging update from Dan Pugh, Treasurer and Secretary of The Geneva School Board.

In March, we will hear from another board member, Laura Grace Alexander, who will be giving a first-hand account of the ten-year history of The Geneva School. Laura Grace was part of the original group who decided that it would be good to establish a classical Christian school in Orlando. This meeting will take place on Monday, March 10th, at 7 p.m.

We hope you will join us!

*Gordon Cloke*

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Progress continues in the search for our new Headmaster. Mr. Bret Dalton of the Dingman Corporation continues to lead the Board's national search. Through special funding made available to the school for the purpose of employing a nationally respected search firm, Bret has been working to find our new Headmaster since November. The absence of visible results to date does not mean that progress is impeded. Instead, it signals that the deliberate and focused national search we requested has been taking place. Not seeing change yet at Geneva only means that Bret has been in cities across the country interviewing prospective candidates. We expect that very soon the Headmaster search committee and the Board will have viable candidates to interview and choices to make.

New faculty members signal progress both for the remainder of this year and into next. A number of teachers have been hired to be permanent subs through May for Rose Ann Futuran and to replace a couple of Dialectic/Rhetoric faculty members who moved from Orlando due to spousal relocations. New faculty members are also being interviewed and hired for next year.

Our upcoming graduation of the senior class (our third graduating class) will take place Friday, May 23rd. What a progress (ion) that signals in their lives! College applications, reference let-

ters and the inevitable nail-biting waiting period mark the transition and progress in the lives of each of these students.

One area of progress that will need many people's assistance is the Relocation Committee. We will be highlighting this undertaking increasingly in the weeks ahead, but suffice it to say that in order to move every single item from our two campuses into our new facility will be a daunting task. But what joy it will be to all be under one roof in brand-new facilities. Over the summer an army of people, boxes and trucks will be necessary to complete the move.

Space limitations and a few more details yet to be worked out prevent even more progress reporting at this time. But changes--desired, planned and good--are taking place in rapid succession. The future prospect of the school has NEVER looked better or brighter. It is not too much to say that a shift in heavenly fortunes has occurred. There is no other way of accounting for the accumulation of answered prayers taking place in dramatic fashion right before our eyes. Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has promised good to us, is lavishing his benevolence upon us. How exciting it is to see that all this desired change is adding to the excellence of our children's education. That's the progress we all labor to see.