



The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

September 2003

Nota Bene

September 2: First Day of School

September 10: Senior Dinner

September 15: Kick off GPA meeting. Headmaster Robert Ingram will address "Jerusalem and Athens," the relationship between our classical and Christian distinctives.

September 23: Open House. Teachers will give an overview of the year, expectations, testing, etc. There will be time to ask questions and hear how your children are settling into their classes. More details will follow in Friday Folders and via email.

September 30: Progress Reports sent home (Grades 3 - 12)

Announcements

SALLY FOSTER: The deadline to turn your Sally Foster orders into the School has been extended until September 15

COUPON BOOK SALE: Please bring your orders to the School no later than Monday, September 29. If you would like more books to have on hand please call or visit Amelia Kapur (ext. 207)

MOMS IN TOUCH: Moms will again meet every Monday at 8:30 AM for approximately 45 minutes to pray for The Geneva School - students, parents, teachers, staff and Board. Come as you are and join us in the Media Center.

WE MADE IT!!

The Geneva School celebrates the conclusion of ten years of ministry in classical Christian education. We begin our eleventh year in a wonderful new facility, welcoming students from K-4 through twelfth grade.

The new building is the outcome of a prayerful and diligent search lasting a number of years. Getting it ready for September 2, would not have been possible without the dedication and hours of work put forth by so many people - not least The Geneva School Board of Governors and the relocation committee.

**THANK YOU - THANK YOU
THANK YOU!**

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Fourth graders enjoy lunch outside on the picnic tables with Michele Lewis and Bob Ingram

Thoughts on Te

by Bob



Students at Geneva will be pleased to know that all the members of the faculty, administration and yes, even the office staff, had to go to school this summer. The schedule was demanding--Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, with only a break for lunch.

The same students will be displeased to know that it was only for one week, and while there were reading assignments, there were no tests or papers due.



Teacher Training was conducted August 11-15 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and our entire staff was joined by the Geneva Deland faculty, as well as by three members of the Kingston Academy of Fort Lauderdale. The training was lengthened from three days to five, and many new elements were included in an effort to more closely examine the classical model of education.

The natural education question to be asked is, "What did you learn?" The written comments from 50 Geneva faculty and staff confirmed what we all experienced during the week. Uniformly the responses highlighted the new sense of purpose, drive, and determination to implement the classical model in dimensions we have not previously explored. Each year we grow in our understanding of what we are attempting to accomplish in our methodology, and it does seem that this year we made some threshold moves forward. For many there was a dawning, a recognition, an understanding that was gleaned that literally caused some to exclaim the "Eureka! I have found it!" quote from Archimedes.



In one sense Teacher Training moved this year from the Grammar and Dialectic stage to the Rhetoric. What I mean by that is this. Previously we have focused upon the more elementary aspects of the classical model and our Reformational commitments. We were still in the acquisition stage of knowl-

Left from top to bottom - Eighth grade Bible class; Elizabeth Canter tests out the new playground equipment.

Right from top to bottom - Seventh grade logic class; Sara Cain talks to Stuart (Board member and co-chair of the Building Committee), Dan Pugh (Board member and previous Board member) and Dan Ingram (Headmaster and previous Board member) enjoy the fruits of the

Teacher Training

o Ingram

edge, not seeing where it all leads and how the dots are all connected. This year we entered an entirely new stage, the Rhetoric, where the truth of classicism was adorned with beauty. Folks saw, and experienced, the capstone of what we want to reproduce in each student - awe and wonder. Some of what we read in preparation was simply exquisite and profound. One piece was on the concept of beauty, and the discussion that it sparked was truly beautiful. We explored the learning process that scripture provides us, and relished the prospect of the pursuit of God and His creation.

Other evidences that we attained the Rhetoric stage of Teacher Training were experienced in the loveliness of singing together in worship each day. Our faculty is very musically talented and eager to express their love of Christ through song. We also discovered a whole new appreciation for one another and the gifts and talents God has given in the teaching arts. Some of the faculty-led seminars nearly brought us to tears as we considered how to shepherd a child's heart, and how to pray for each and every student in the class.

The Rhetoric stage is intended to teach us how to persuade one another of the truth we have come to embrace. When artfully done, loveliness results. Perhaps the greatest evidence that this was achieved is in the relationships that have developed among the faculty. Mutual esteem, affection, and trust are apparent. A common bond in Christ unites us and a common calling to education directs us. As we continue to serve together throughout the year I believe a "rhetorical" beauty will become increasingly obvious. Pray for us toward that end, for in so doing, our students will be the real beneficiaries of our week together in Teacher Training.



eth Canter arrives at school accompanied by her dad;

a Cain talks to Donna O'Toole at her new front desk;
g Committee), Dan Pugh (co-chair of the Board of
ard member) enjoy the fruits of their labor on behalf of

Geneva Parents Association

TO ENRICH THE LIFE OF THE GENEVA SCHOOL THROUGH PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

by Gordon Cloke - GPA President

Welcome new parents, and welcome back to all returning parents! For many of you the opening of the new school building represents the fruit of literally years of prayer and work. For those of us who love this school, the transition to our new home represents a defining moment. In fifty or a hundred years, Lord willing, our children and grandchildren in the faith will look back on this day and note that The Geneva School took a giant step forward. While we cannot and should not take it for granted, we hope and pray and trust that God's amazing kindness to this school in its first ten years will be outdone only by His even greater blessings in the future.

As usual, I would like to use this first edition of the 2003-2004 school year to introduce and remind us all about the role of the GPA in the life of the School.

Who or what is the GPA?

Every Geneva parent is automatically a member of the Geneva Parents Association - no additional fee required! As such every parent is positively encouraged to participate actively in the life of the School and in the day-to-day education of their children. Opportunities to get involved in your child's classroom, in field trips, projects and events abound at The Geneva School, and this participation is highly coveted by the faculty and administration. Almost all of this involvement is spontaneous and initiated directly by individual parents. However, a GPA Committee is also formed each year in order to coordinate and facilitate as required, and also to focus on participation in school-wide events and activities (such as the school Christmas program or Auction). The committee is comprised of at least one parent representative from each grade level (not necessarily the "Room Mom," who works closely with the class teacher) and is coordinated by a President elected each spring.

What does it do?

In addition to the ongoing parental involvement described above, involvement in the GPA includes the following areas:

*Overseeing the annual nomination and election of a parent governor to The Geneva School Board

*Working directly with the administration (and separate committees) to coordinate parental involvement in school-wide events and activities

*Making sure that our faculty and administration feel appreciated by the parents

*Keeping abreast of current needs within the school and recruiting parents with the required talents

An additional overarching priority of the GPA is to help ensure that there is a smooth flow of communication between parents and the School, and vice versa. In addition to regular email communications, the monthly GPA meetings provide an excellent opportunity to catch up on the latest school news, ask questions and discuss matters of common interest.

How can I get involved?

First and foremost, stay involved in the day-to-day education of your child. Keep in regular communication with your child's teachers. Look for opportunities to participate actively in the classroom or to help with field trips and special projects. Second, plan to attend the monthly GPA meeting, which is usually held on the second Monday of each month at the School at 7 p.m. The meetings are always announced in The Courier (monthly newsletter) and by email.

Third, consider becoming a GPA grade representative and playing a more active role in the GPA committee. You will be asked to communicate and help coordinate the involvement of the parents in your class in school-wide activities. It is an excellent way to jump into the mainstream of the Geneva community.

What happens at the GPA Meetings?

The monthly meetings follow a defined agenda, as follows:

7:00 Welcome and Prayer

7:10 Feature Presentation

8:00 Update from a member of the Board

8:10 GPA Business (information sharing and coordination)

8:30 Close (strictly on time)

The "Feature Presentation" typically involves members of our faculty, administration or board speaking about a particular aspect of school life or the classical model. Our first meeting of the year, on Monday September 15th, will feature Headmaster Robert Ingram, who will speak on "Jerusalem and Athens," addressing the question of how the school's two distinctives, Christian and Classical, relate to each other, and how a scriptural worldview is woven into the fabric of our curriculum. I look forward to seeing you there!

Parent Governor Elections

In the same envelope as this edition of *The Courier*, you should find a nomination form for this year's parent governor election. Please read it carefully and be sure to submit your nominations by Wednesday, September 17th. The participation of parents on the Board is a crucial component of the school's method of governance, and in recent history has proven to be both hugely effective and a delightful, if sometimes daunting, experience for all involved!

Many thanks to both Leigh Kennedy and Chrissie Schutz, our two currently serving parent governors. Their participation on the Board this year has meant more than most of us either realize or appreciate!

If you have any questions about the GPA, please do not hesitate to give me a call or send an email.

Gordon Cloke

President, Geneva Parents Association, 2003-2004