



The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

December 2003

Nota Bene

December 8: Progress Reports Sent Home (Grades 3 - 12)

December 11: Christmas Celebration - 7PM (see below for more details)

December 22: CHRISTMAS BREAK

January 5: BACK TO SCHOOL

January 24: Chili Cook-Off

Announcements

MOMS IN TOUCH: Moms meet every Monday at 8:15 AM for approximately an hour to pray for The Geneva School - students, parents, teachers, staff and Board. Come as you are to the Media Center.

The Geneva School

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And the Word became flesh

by Robert Ingram



Mankind is an inveterate idol-maker. Every people group, tribe, nation, culture, society and civilization has and continues to make idols. From fertile, though fallen imaginations, mankind creates a staggering array of images carved from wood and rock, overlaid with gold and precious metals. The prophet Habakkuk asks the penetrating question:

What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, Or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols. Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, "Awake!" To a dumb stone, "Arise!" And that is your teacher? Behold it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all inside it. (2:18-19)

John Calvin presses the imagery even further when he says that every man's heart is an idol factory, constantly and invariably showing a propensity to fashion false images before which he worships.

(Continued on back page)

THE GENEVA SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
7:00 PM IN THE GYMNASIUM**

**All students, K-4 through 12th grade, are expected to attend.
Those students participating in the program should be at the school no later than 6:30 PM.**

Event parking will be provided at Aloma Baptist Church. Please drop your children off first, then park your car.

A Classical Approach to Photography



"Beads," by Christalyn Steers

The students in the photography class are having fun as they experience a classical approach to taking pictures. They have learned about the properties of light, intentional and unintentional, and the effect it has on film. A new vocabulary has developed as they learn about F-stops, ASA, and depth of field. After learning about perspective and framing, they now look at their world through a viewfinder that offers so many more possibilities than they had seen before, each one a possible "Kodak moments."

A field trip to the Crealde School of Art to see a photo documentary on the History of Florida allowed the students to see the quality of photography in the original format from many artists ("how did they get the black's so black and the whites so white?") and receive a history lesson at the same time. Elliot Porter's exhibit at the Orlando Museum of Art gave the students an appreciation of light, texture and color and how it creates beauty. They came back from these field trips inspired to create their own photographs, emulating the great artists' work they had seen and studied.



"The Good Life," by Rachael Pennington



"Duty of the Headmaster," by Brenton Titcomb

Bill Doster, a photographer for five nationally published water sport magazines, came to the school and spoke to the students about his work and how to take action photographs like the ones in his magazines. The next week, the class went boating and applied this information to create their own action water sports photographs.

A few weeks ago the students experienced a "real-world" situation. They were given a last minute photo assignment to take portraits of our 63 new students. They learned how to

FALL SEASON SPORTS ROUND-UP



Back Row: Anna O'Connor, Liz Cross, Fran Cloke, Abbie Beates, Sarah Grogan (homeschooler).
Front Row: Ali Looke, Sophie Meyer, Abigail Pugh, Barbara Kiester. Julia Swanson is not shown.

With a stunning record of 12-5 the middle school volleyball team, coached by Anna O'Conner, had a great winning season. That may well be the best Geneva team record to date and it is especially remarkable since last year the Middle School volleyball team did not win a single game!

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

The team included many first timers with only four returning players. Eighth graders Fran Cloke, Abbie Beates and Julia Swanson gave leadership to the team and look forward to playing on the varsity team next year. Seventh grader Abigail Pugh returned for a second season and improved even beyond her own expectations! Two newcomers to Geneva, Sophie Meyer and Ali Looke, proved to be two star volleyball players and great assets to the team. Sixth grader Liz Cross with her strength and height had a great first season and is set to be a lead player in coming seasons. Seventh grader Barbara Kiester joined the team this year and was a wonderful team player who gave her all. Homeschooler Sarah Grogan had a mighty serve and added a lot of "cheer" to the team.

Go Knights! was a cheer heard frequently on the court this season. With senior captains Rachael Pennington and Stephanie Cuffel leading the team in spirit, the Lady Knights fought their way to nine victories this season. This year the team was joined by four homeschool students, which enabled the varsity team to have a full roster. Each member of the team contributed in different ways to all nine victories, and each team member helped to keep up morale after those few, unfortunate losses. Danielle Wayne always put volleyball before herself, sacrificing her body in order to save a pass. Amanda McPhail's powerful serve put many points up on the scoreboard (and a few players on the injured list). Brenna McConnell's passing was sure to produce a perfect set. Amber Pietrowski was always ready to jump in where ever she was needed. Toward the end of the season, the team was joined by two eighth graders, Fran Cloke and Abbie Beates, who brought new aspects to the team with their volleyball skills. Rachael Pennington's sets, along with Stephanie Cuffel's spikes, combined to score many points.

VARSIITY VOLLEYBALL



Back Row: Coach Brandon Thomas, Candi Beach (homeschooler), Brenna McConnell, Amber Pietrowski, Danielle Wayne, Amanda McPhail. **Front Row:** Hannah True (homeschooler), Lois True (homeschooler), Stephanie Cuffel, Caroline Kessel (homeschooler), Rachael Pennington

This year the end to the Lady Knights' season was bittersweet. They may have won their last game, but they lost their four seniors. The seniors hope that even though they are leaving, the team will keep up the hard work and have an even better season next year. Finally, the seniors want all the remaining players to remember one thing: "Don't be lackadaisical!"



Coach Matthew White, Jeff Johnson (homeschooler), Charlie Fitzgerald (homeschooler), Michael Gmitro, Liv Pullinger

The Geneva School golf team began the year with no idea how they were going to fair - but they surprised even themselves! They were able to overcome fear of the opponents, which turned out to be their own internal fears. Overcoming these obstacles, they were able to win matches against schools that have been around far longer than The Geneva School. They had only four team members

GOLF TEAM

and were able to compete against teams that had up to six members. The students handled themselves well in all of their matches. This year turned out to be a fun filled season - it wasn't about winning or losing, but how each member strived to perform their best, no matter the outcome. That is the character trait we strove to obtain while having a lot of fun in the process.

The Geneva Knights Middle School team definitely had a growing and successful season. They went from just kicking the ball and hardly playing in order to being able to do planned crosses and passing the ball around correctly. They had a great coach, Andy, who really made practices and games fun. He would also personally take individuals aside and show each one of them how they could improve. They would also sometimes scrimmage with the Varsity team which really gave them some good game practice.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER

At the beginning of the season one might have thought this team was not going to have a great season, but you would be wrong. Even though their record did not show a winning season, if you saw them play at the beginning of the season and then saw their last game you would have seen a huge improvement. You would also appreciate the dedication and determination of this group of boys. They always had fun and tried their best and that's what really counts after all.



Back Row: Calvin Meyer, Kyle Burks, Stevie Candeto, Coach Andy MacDairmid, Bennett Robinson, Jordon Krivan, Philip Kliiber (homeschooler), Jonathan Spilman. **Front Row:** Zac Schutz, Micah Oates (homeschooler), Philip Deuchler, Ben Elliott, Jono Seneff



VARSITY SOCCER

Back Row: Jon Shafe, Kyle Lewis, Trevor Swanson, Foster Lerner, Noah Bradon, Rachel Maynard, Scott Ritchie, Coach Mike McAvoy. **Front Row:** John Ritchie, Megan Rutledge, Alex Cloke, Kyle Burks, Gingie Maynard, Alison Stevens, Melissa Stevens

Crash! Bang! Bam! A ball in the back of the net! Okay, okay, maybe it doesn't sound exactly like that, but this season certainly wasn't without drama. Jon remembers talking to an opponent during a game about how tough Rachel Maynard was - this was after she had sprained her ankle. He looked at her and said, " Oh I know, she kicked me in the leg and it has hurt all game." Moments later she was on the ground with a broken wrist. The games always had plenty of excitement, whether it was the close score, the fact that they were winning, the fact that they didn't stand a chance (a more and more rare situation) or the fact that Kyle Lewis broke the windshield of an innocent passer-by. Yes, there was never a dull moment on the soccer team, and anybody with two legs and a sense of humor is encouraged to come out for the next season.

This year the team said goodbye to four seniors, three of whom have been with the varsity program since its birth, four years ago. Gingie Maynard, John Ritchie, and Jon Shafe have played with the team since its inception, while Megan Rutledge joined in a later season and saw the

team improve and strengthen year after year. The seniors also stepped up to leadership positions after the loss of last year's seniors. The knights finished the season with a 7-9 record. The seniors are looking forward to visiting the team in the years to come and expect to see improvements far beyond its present abilities!

On Saturday, November 8, our 4th and 5th grade boy's soccer team won the ACYS Under 11 Soccer Tournament. The boys defeated The Master's Academy 6-1 in the championship game! We are so proud of these boys for their athletic excellence and their good sportsmanship.

ACYS SOCCER

This past fall The Geneva School sported eight teams on the ACYS soccer league. Congratulations to all the students who represented the School on the soccer field and a big THANK YOU to all the coaches who volunteered their time to work with these budding young athletes.

YOUTH SPORTS

The youth sports programming is growing in leaps and bounds thanks to Coach Steve Schultz. His enthusiasm and powers of persuasion (to both students and coaches) have led scores of girls to join the running club and boys from kindergarten through sixth grade to play flag football. After Christmas nearly every student in grades K through 6 will be playing basketball. GO KNIGHTS!!



Coaches: Greg Boyd and Bill Bigham **Back Row:** Eli Beates, Thomas Saunders, Jake Paglialonga, Alex Boyd, Clay Lemasters, Christopher Hebert (homeschooler), Stephen Cavalli, John Youderian. **Front Row:** Jared Paglialonga, Philip Stevens (homeschooler), Blake Habicht, Taylor Bigham, Tarik Haskell (homeschooler)

work under less than an optimum setting. They had little advance notice, poor lighting, and a short window of time. They performed beautifully under pressure. Their photographs were used at the Vision Dinner hosted by the Board for the new families of Geneva.

The photography students are developing their photojournalism skills as members of the yearbook staff. Organized and planning ahead, you will see them photographing events on and off the Geneva campus. They write the stories that go with the pictures and design page layouts meeting deadlines and creating the yearbook.

The students have started developing their own negatives in class. This is a process that requires teamwork and reliance on others as



"Dispelling Darkness," by Jon Shafe



"Neighbor's Gate," by Melissa Stevens

they use seven different chemicals, controlling the exact temperature, agitation and timing. The 45 minute developing process does not always produce good negatives. Although it is frustrating to lose a good picture, the learning experience is invaluable and as Casey Vaughn said, "It is so rewarding to see what you have created yourself."

There is always excitement when a student shares a photograph with the class. They are teaching one another, sharing techniques, each having their life's passions influence their work. They have begun to push the envelope, using the technical skills they have learned to express themselves in new and creative ways. Their latest work is displayed in a photo gallery inside the Grammar School science classroom. Stop by and take a look. Someday you may be saying "I knew them when..."

The Photography class is taught by Mrs. Kellie Harding



"Snuffleupagus," by Casey Vaughn

Why is this so? It happens because mankind is made in the image of God, and thus has eternity set in his heart. He must, and will worship something. But his fallen nature corrupts his true expression of love and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ into the abomination of idolatry. We all desire a God with "skin on." Admittedly it is terribly hard to worship an invisible God, but in fact that is precisely the nature of our God. He is invisible. But sin will not allow us to tolerate an invisible deity, and so it turns to idolatrous expressions of gods with "skin on."

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

It is exactly at this point that the Gospel breaks through to us in our sin and declares the unthinkable: God has become man. God, in the second Person of the Trinity, has become a God with "skin on." Surely this is too good to be true. God has accommodated our deepest longings and our most vulnerable need. In Jesus Christ He has condescended to what is called the "Divine stoop," bending low to us from heaven itself.

The message of Christmas is "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). The Incarnation, or infleshing, of God as man is certainly one of the most sublime mysteries of the Christian faith. Who can fathom the love of God for sinners that would stir Him to do such an unthinkable act?

For thirty-three years in human history the God-man walked the earth. The invisible God had become visible, and "we beheld His glory." Only "we" is "they", the few people in Palestine out of all humanity. For the rest of us in human history God is known only by His invisibility.

But yet again God, who is rich in mercy, accommodates the needs of His people. Through the indwelling power

of the Holy Spirit, and in accordance with the command of scripture, we are to become like Christ. We are to be regenerate image-bearers of The Holy One of Israel. We are to be conformed into His likeness as we grow in grace and truth. In our flesh we are to express the beauties of our God and the loveliness of Christ. We are to flesh-out the Gospel through the totality of our lives - in word, thought, and deed. As we grow into the perfection of Christ Himself we are to become, as Martin Luther was fond of saying, "Christ to our neighbor." While we are not God with skin on, in our flesh we are image bearers of this invisible God. Admittedly we are a poor substitute for Christ Himself, but God in His wisdom has determined that we are sufficient for the needs of other sinners.

So how does this relate to The Geneva School and your students? Our students are no different than anyone else who has ever lived. They are idol-factories who will fashion objects of worship. They, too, want a God with skin on. God's invisibility is no easier for them than it is for any of us. Therefore we have adopted an "incarnational" approach to teaching. We are as scrupulous as we can be to find the most godly, mature, and Christlike people we can who are also excellent teachers. We are committed to putting faculty members into classes who truly flesh-out the Gospel before the eyes of their students.

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Do our faculty perfectly portray Christ? Of course not! But do they strive to represent Christ to their students throughout the course of the day? Yes they do. Do they exemplify the virtues of Christ and manifest a biblical portrait of Him in their own lives? By all means. Your student will see Jesus Christ living in the life of his or her teacher. This is a tremendous privilege that you are affording your children in their education at Geneva. It is a gift you give them each day of the school year. You may give your children many wonderful gifts this Christmas, but the gift of incarnational teaching surpasses them all.