



# The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

January 2004

## Nota Bene

**January 5: First Day Back to School**

**January 5 - 13: Registration for Current TGS Families**

**January 7: Yale Whiffenpoofs Concert at the Knowles Chapel, Rollins College**

**January 12: GPA Meeting - 7:00 PM**

**January 19: Open Registration Begins**

**January 22/23: Semester Exams for 7 - 12 Grade Students**

**January 24: Chili Cook-Off - 6:00 PM**

**January 28: Open House for Prospective Families - 7:00 PM**

**January 30: Report Cards Sent Home**

**February 2: FFNA deadline for mailed applications. (Deadlines for online applications are Feb. 16 for regular and Feb. 25 for fastback)**

**February 21: Cheerleader Clinic, 2 - 5 PM**

**February 27: Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game**

## 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 Grammar School Library.

### The Geneva School

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## *The War for Talent*

By Headmaster, Robert F. Ingram

Wars are often fought in order to gain scarce natural resources. The "haves" and the "have-nots" square off in battle to see who will prevail in the bitterly fought contests over oil, water, land, and seaports. "To the victor go the spoils."

Geneva is now at war. We are engaged in the war for talent.

Several months ago Jim Seneff, co-chair of the Board, outlined for us the strategic initiative he was setting for Board members and the Administration. His remarks that night focused upon a recently published book by the title, "The War for Talent." (Since that time each Board member and Administrator has read the book--a book whose truth fits any business or ministry model.) From his own business research among leaders of corporate America Jim has concurred with the premise of the book. "The supply of managerial talent is limited.....(therefore) excellent talent management has become a crucial source of competitive advantage. Companies that do a better job of attracting, developing, exciting, and retaining their talent will gain more than their fair share of this critical and scarce resource and will boost their performance dramatically" (pp. 5, 7).

Within the business model the thesis of the book is the reality of a shrinking talent pool of leaders. Companies are being saddled with mediocrity at a time when the brightest and the best are needed to lead. Competitive advantages are rarely technological even in an age of technology. Competitive advantages are the people, the talent of an organization, who in turn create the technology or the product or the service.

If that is true in business, it is truer in the field of education. There has been a scarcity (both in quantity and quality) of teachers for some time. The shrinking pool of educators is even more pronounced when the hiring qualifications are brought to bear. Geneva faculty must not only be professionally qualified and talented, but they must also adhere to our classical and theological distinctives. Personal qualifications of integrity, godliness, winsomeness, and grace round out a set of expectations that results in the "needle in the haystack" problem of finding the talent that Geneva needs.

Geneva's faculty needs have never been solved by the providence of waiting. Rather, prayerful reliance upon God's provision routinely results in a more vigorous use of the means He has put at our disposal. The Holy Spirit supplies an ethical energy into the life of the believer that animates his or her actions precisely because of the offered prayers. While this has always been true at Geneva, it will become a more lively pursuit into the future.

Geneva's future success (from a merely human vantage point) is about its leadership embracing a talent mindset. If there is a providence of "waiting", there is certainly a providence of "acting." A clarion call has been sounded for Geneva to cultivate this talent mindset. For the future of the school and the quality of instruction in the classroom bold plans have been laid. Aggressive measures are being taken to identify faculty on the national level who can embrace our Christian classical model.

Obviously, the results of such a campaign cannot be seen overnight. In addition to acquiring talented faculty and administrators, it is also imperative to mentor, nurture, and develop the gifts and abilities that had been initially identified. This will take time, but it is an exciting venture. Already God has surfaced some people that cause us to be very encouraged. Prospective faculty and resumes are coming to Geneva in numbers we have not seen before. I will be making a number of recruiting trips to colleges and universities. Our current faculty openings are posted on over 600 college and university job-placement websites. Recruiting has become a daily occurrence and a leadership lifestyle.

Given our added faith requirements, our curricular and pedagogical distinctives, and our insistence upon certain personal traits, it is admittedly difficult to find acceptable faculty and administrators. What is hard for us is no easier for other Christian classical schools. I can envision a time when our database and resource pool will become a central clearing house for the whole Christian classical movement. Wouldn't it be a delightful thing for God to meet our needs and in His abundance allow us in turn to provide for the needs of sister schools!

In this war for talent it is imperative that we build an army of recruiters. Even as we enlist the help of friends across the country and make widespread use of internet technologies, we hope to secure your assistance as well. Give us names; bring us resumes. Search for people who fit the Geneva faculty profile and tell them our (your) story. There may be a war for talent going on, but it is for the sake of our children's education that we engage it.



## ***Memories from December's Christmas Celebration***



# Eleventh Annual Geneva Spring Auction

Saturday, March 27, at 6:00 PM  
Church Street Station

Many of you are aware that the School's income from tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating students at Geneva. Every year the School has to raise a considerable amount of money through various fund-raisers. The Annual Spring Auction is one of Geneva's biggest, and arguably the most exciting and enjoyable, of those fund-raisers.

In order to reach our goal of raising \$125,000 we are going to need the help of every Geneva family. If you have the time and the gift of persuading businesses to make donations please call the chairman of the auction committee, Lea Steinberger, at 407-622-7193. Even bringing a friend or family member to the auction and introducing them to Geneva is a great way to spread the good news of Christian classical education and our wonderful school.

We want the evening to be an outreach and a way to bring in new students while providing an enjoyable, fun time for all of us. At the auction, we will be unveiling Geneva's new video presentation that gives a wonderful view into the Christian classical education that our children enjoy.

## OPEN GYM NIGHTS

Parents - are you up for a game of basketball or volleyball?

Geneva's gym will open to any parent or friend of Geneva (no students, please) on the following evenings from 7 - 9 PM



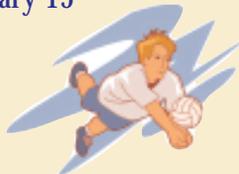
Thursday, January 15

Friday, January 30

Thursday, February 12

Thursday, February 26

Thursday, March 11



## Christian Education:

*One father's vision of what it should look like*

By GPA President, Gordon Cloke

I had cause during the recent Christmas break to reflect on what it is that parents hope for in the education of their children. You will find the results below, expressed as a list of desired outcomes that I pray would be realized in my own children. As I read through it now, there are many things I would like to add or change, but perhaps it will stir some of you to think about your own hopes and desires as parents with respect to education. If it does, I would love to hear from you.

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That our children would learn to exhilarate in the acquisition of knowledge and desire to glorify God in all that they do, whether it be athletic, artistic, academic, personal or any other sphere. This implies an attitude to these pursuits, an ethic or heart-orientation, that does NOT directly correspond to raw academic performance. It further implies that one does one's best in all those things which are considered good, true, and beautiful, including academic studies at The Geneva School.

That they would be thoroughly equipped for their chosen career or calling. That this chosen career or calling would be one that provides enormous enjoyment and fulfillment.

That they would be as well positioned as possible to take hold of life's opportunities, such as college, home-ownership, ministry, social opportunities, marriage, and parenthood. Specifically, that they would attract college opportunities and scholarships; opportunities for gainful employment; be able to earn enough money to meet their needs and satisfy the desires of their heart; be prepared for life's difficult challenges, in both practical and emotional/spiritual dimensions.

That they would learn to balance their "leisure" and "work" activities at the expense of neither by: learning to enjoy all that God gives them to do; by being effective and organized; by learning to make even times of "leisure" productive and rewarding at some level; by reflecting on the biblical priority for all their tasks and pursuits; by being content to sacrifice ALL THINGS for the cause of Christ and the gospel.

That we as parents would be faithful and diligent in meeting God's high calling for us to raise up our children to love and serve Him.

That our children would see God's hand in all the areas that they study and be able to apply them to their personal walk with Christ.

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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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Happy New Year - I pray that 2004 will be a prosperous and successful year for your entire family!

There are a number of wonderful events coming up that will allow you to get or stay involved with the School. Some, such as the annual auction, will be clearly communicated elsewhere, but let me mention one or two others.

On Monday, January 12th, at 7:00 PM our first GPA meeting of the year will be focused on Athletics. Board-member John Maynard, with assistance from Athletic Director Dan Harger and Grammar School Sports Coordinator Steve Schultz, will explain Geneva's approach to athletics, how it relates to the overall classical mode, how it is currently implemented at The Geneva School and their hopes and aspirations for the future.

On Saturday, January 24th, we are we will gather once again for what in the past has been a very successful (and tasty) social event for the Geneva parent community - the annual Chili Cook-Off. In addition to the competitive Chili cooking, the evening will include, for the first time, a *Sock Hop* with music from the sixties, seventies and eighties ("the days of our youth"). As it turns out, the *Sock Hop* is aptly named, because street shoes will not be allowed in the gymnasium, where the event will take place! This is an adult-only event intended for all parents, at a very reasonable price of \$5 per person - free if you cook chili.

On Monday, February 9th, we will repeat last year's very successful presentation from our Kindergarten teachers, Classical Kindergarten, which will provide a showcase for the remarkable work being done by Carol Reaves, Robin Candeto and now Mary Frame. In an interactive and engaging manner, Carol, Robin and Mary will explain the principles behind their classroom approach, demonstrate how these principles are implemented and share some of the results. In addition to being a wonderful opportunity to learn from "the masters" how the foundation of the classical program is laid, this is also a great chance to invite prospective kindergarten parents for next year.

In March, we will hear from Michael Eatmon and Nate Sweet about Geneva's recapitulatory classical approach to teaching history, and in April (the final GPA meeting of the year) we will consider together the question: *What is the proper role of Christian parents in the education of their children?*

In addition to the featured presentation, the GPA meetings will also include, as usual, an update from a Board member and Headmaster, Bob Ingram, in addition to any formal GPA business (usually minimal). The meetings start at 7:00 PM and almost always finish by 8:30 PM. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Gordon Cloke*

President, Geneva Parents Association, 2003-2004

## GPA MEETING

Monday, January 12  
7:00 PM

The focus will be on  
Geneva's Athletics  
Program

## GENEVA'S ANNUAL CHILI COOK - OFF

Saturday, January 24, at 6:00 PM



We will dance off the extra calories with a Sock-Hop dancing to music from our youth (60's, 70's & 80's). Please be aware that no street shoes are allowed in the gym.

Tickets: \$5 (free if you enter the chili competition). Please purchase tickets ASAP from Sara Cain in the School office.

Come prepared for a good time with tasty food, memorable music and lively fellowship.

