

## October

**October 11: October GPA Meeting - 7:00 PM**

**October 13: PSAT/NMSQT Testing for Students in Grades 9 - 11**

**October 15: Fall Break**

**October 19: New Parent Dinner - 6:45 PM**

**October 25: LifeTouch Retakes**

**October 29: All Saints' Day Celebration. End of First Grading Period**

## The Geneva Parents Association

Monday, October 11, 7:00 PM in the Music Room

Featuring a special presentation by the science department

### CLASSICAL SCIENCE

Vanessa Schaefer, Gregg Thompson, and Ravi Jain will share with you the distinctives of their approach to the uniquely classical perspective that Geneva implements in its science teaching. They will cover topics ranging from the integration of math and science to the use of primary texts from Galileo and Newton. It will be an opportunity for all to see why Kepler believed that in studying nature and science he was also pursuing the mind of God.

## The Geneva School Annual Auction

Saturday, February 12, 2005, at 6:00 p.m.  
Church Street Station Ballroom

The auction committee is off to a great start but still needs additional help. If you would like to volunteer please contact Leigh Kennedy at MRKRPK@aol.com. Check the school web site for additional auction information.

## Moms in Touch

A group of dedicated moms meets every Tuesday at 8:15 AM for approximately one hour to pray for The Geneva School students, parents, teachers, staff and Board. Come as you are to the Grammar School library after you drop off your children.

## The Geneva School

2025 State Road 436  
Winter Park, FL 32792



# The Courier

The Geneva  
School  
newsletter  
October 2004



## New Software Acquisition Offers Benefits to Parents and Students

The Geneva School has taken a significant leap forward this year with the addition of a new computer software program entitled ThinkWave. The school has recently purchased three components of the software which will be utilized by school administrators, teachers, parents and students in grades 3 - 12. The parent component, Grades Online!, provides individual, secure, password protected areas for students and parents so they can access information about their individual grades, upcoming tests and assignments, absences and announcements. This technology represents a growing national trend in education. It has been implemented at a variety of both private and public schools and will soon be up and running at The Geneva School.

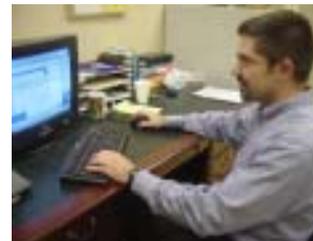
It is not an exaggeration to say that the growth at Geneva over the past two years has been staggering. Enrollment during the 2002-2003 school-year was around 200 students - today Geneva has 354 students enrolled in grades K-4 through 12. This 75% increase in the student body has brought Geneva many blessings but it would be amiss not to say that growth also brings with it many challenges. Keeping grades and records for 354 students and their teachers is a chal-

lenge, and to that end Geneva has purchased the ThinkWave software.

After some initial technical difficulties in implementing the software on the school network, ThinkWave is now operational. However, much work still remains to input student, teacher and class data. In order to give the administration time to input the necessary data and to give the teachers time to work with the new software, it will not be available to the parents until the beginning of the second grading period. At that time passcodes will be sent home to parents of students in grades 3 - 12 and they will be able to obtain information pertinent to their child. This information will include upcoming tests and assignments; grades, with individual comments; absences and tardies; and announcements. In the meantime, homework schedules for all Dialectic and Rhetoric students will continue to be posted on the school web site on the Student Workroom page.

If you would like to research the ThinkWave software for yourself, visit the ThinkWave web site at [www.thinkwave.com](http://www.thinkwave.com).

## DAVID PETRAK Manager of Information Technology



The Geneva School has recently hired David Petrak as Manager of Information Technology. David is responsible for all the computers and peripheral software and equipment at the school; or as David puts it, "if you can plug it in, I will help."

Coming from a family of teachers, David is pleased to work alongside the faculty as they explore the question, "How does technology fit within the classical model?" He will also be working with the administration to research and implement a new school administration software package; ThinkWave is the first step in this direction.

## Inside the Walls of Geneva by Headmaster, Robert Ingram

I am grateful for many things in my role as Headmaster, and one of the highlights is seeing what goes on "Inside the Walls" of The Geneva School. There is so much that happens here that I never would have known were I not here daily. While I have always known that the education Geneva offers is one that I wish my daughters had received, now every day I observe even more confirmation of that belief. In my Applied Logic classes I hear the level of discussion in the classrooms, I see the reasoning students apply in their writing and catch the excitement as students are engaged in learning. I wish you had the same opportunity to share the view that we have each day. That is precisely why we have added a new section to *The Courier* to share some of those highlights with you.

I thought I would also take this opportunity to remind you of an important aspect of our education here, and that is our attempt to teach all disciplines broadly and deeply. This may go against the

grain of today's society, but we do so purposefully. These days it is common to hear children and even parents say things such as, "I'm not a math person," "I'm a sports guy, I'm not good at English," or "I don't have a musical bone in my body." Quite frankly, stu-



All Grammar School students in K-2nd grade have been assigned a violin and are beginning to learn proper form of how to hold and play the violin. Here, 1st grade student, Dax Borde, models the "play" position. The introduction of violin is a new facet of Geneva's Fine Arts Program being developed by music teachers Michael and Wendy Miller.



Mr. Gum's Algebra students, Jonathan Seneff and Luis Perez, take on the persona of Albert Einstein. This oral presentation came as a result of their research and profile of this great mathematician.

dents are not the best positioned to make such pronouncements, particularly before attending college. While few students are omniscient, I believe all Geneva students are sufficiently competent

to study all disciplines. At The Geneva School, we hope to create much more than one-dimensional students. We are committed to developing students with a foundational knowledge in all areas in which we teach. It is far too early in their educational development to do anything but cheer them on in each new course and learning opportunity.

Our goal is to create young men and women who have the tools to succeed in all spheres of life. If there is a discussion our students encounter as a young adult, we not only want them to understand the discussion but be able to contribute to it as well. If students receive a "Renaissance" education, even a reserved, quiet child can learn to speak publicly with confidence and clarity. Perhaps while growing up, a student may not have felt very artistic but the art

training they received at Geneva may one day allow them to enjoy an outstanding day at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Another student may be able to sing a hymn boldly instead of just mouthing the words because of the vocal training they received at Geneva.

It is my hope that we will often push your children beyond their comfort levels, asking them to read Shakespeare or sing in music when they may not enjoy either one at first. They may be required to run a mile in P.E. and they may actually finish in the back of the class. Please partner with us in this quest and challenge your children to persevere with their minds, their hearts and their wills. Charge them to make it a goal to grow in all disciplines and become a Renaissance man or woman. Ask the parent of any Geneva graduate how often their college students have thanked them for the gift of the educational breadth they received at Geneva.



No, these students are not sleeping during Mr. Frazer's Latin class. They are participating in their favorite part of Latin instruction, where only Latin is used in conversation. It is part of the new Latin program implemented this year at Geneva which focuses on the spoken language. These students successfully executed the following commands: Ambulate ad lectum! (Walk over to the couch.) Considite! (Sit down.) Dormite Discipulae! (Sleep students.) This part of instruction is highly motivating to students, as they must listen carefully to the ending of each word to see if only the female students are being addressed, only male students or both.



## Geneva Hires Full- Time Nurse

The Geneva School has made a wonderful addition to its staff

this year with their new School Nurse, Laurie Booth. Laurie moved to Orlando this summer from Atlanta, Georgia, bringing with her 16 years of experience as a children's nurse. She gained her experience at the Egleston Hospital for Children at Emory University and at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. In addition to direct patient care, Laurie has worked in Pediatric Intensive Care, has served as a trauma nurse and has supervised operating room staff during surgery at Newnan Hospital in Newnan, Georgia.

The Geneva School has experienced significant growth in recent years which has heightened the need for professional help in the area of student health services. Laurie's role at the School will go beyond direct one-on-one contact with students as she develops guidelines and procedures for medical care at the School. She has begun to conduct research on national private school standards for health care and has also made site visits to other private schools in the area to evaluate their programs and procedures. While the School would like to avoid any issues that a Band-Aid cannot fix, it is reassuring to know that should a crisis arise, someone with Laurie's experience is on staff to address the need.

Laurie is married to Michael Booth and their move to Orlando was prompted by Michael's acceptance of a position as Director of Gift and Estate Planning at Campus Crusade for Christ International. They have one son, John Michael, who is in kindergarten at The Geneva School.



This is a scene from the "Language Table at Noon." Students taking upper level French periodically bring their lunch to the French room and speak only French throughout their time together. The reward for this language challenging lunch is the dessert tray full of Mrs. King's homemade French pastries.