



# The Courier

The Geneva  
School  
newsletter  
NOVEMBER 2004

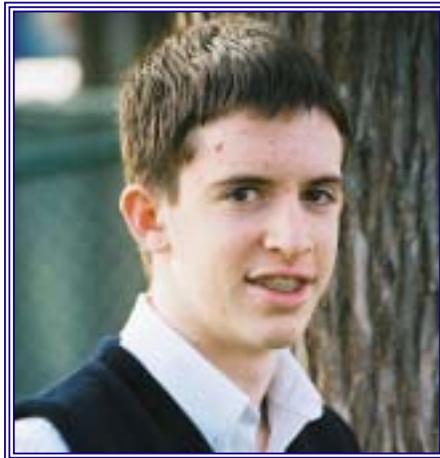
The Geneva School has a new student this year who is competing in the World Youth Chess Championship taking place in Greece. Daniel Ludwig is a ninth-grade student at Geneva and is a national chess champion for his age division. He is one of only five students in his age group selected to represent the United States in the tournament. Selected players must be established as one of the highest-rated candidates by post-tournament rating in the previous 12 months. The competition will take place November 3-14, in Heraklio, located on the island of Crete's northern coast.

Nationally, Daniel is ranked third in the Top 100 chess players for his age group. Maintaining his status requires playing in about 20 tournaments each year. This upcoming trip to Greece is the farthest distance he has ever traveled for a tournament and his first international trip. Previously, the farthest he had traveled for a tournament was to Illinois and Colorado. When asked where he derives his motivation to maintain the pace of this level of competition, Daniel replied, "I'm very competitive...competitive at everything. That is why chess is good for me. If I am disappointed with the outcome of a game, the only person I can blame is myself."

For those who follow chess, the game will be played in 11 rounds, according to the Swiss

## ***Geneva Student Daniel Ludwig to represent the U.S. in World Chess Championship***

system. The regulations will permit 90 minutes for the whole game and 30-second increments for every move made. This is a tighter time constraint than



many tournaments in which Daniel has competed. Thus far, his record game length has been six hours and 15 minutes.

Daniel began playing chess at the age of seven. He is the sixth of eight children



in his family and was taught to play chess by his oldest brother, Thomas. Although Thomas never competed at chess, two of Daniel's sisters have competed.

However, neither pursued it to the degree that Daniel has.

When asked what chess has taught him that also applies to other areas, he explained how it has taught him to think in his head. "I think it has made math easier for me because in chess I'm constantly doing calculations in my head. Memory also comes into play because there is so much I have to memorize in chess. It has also helped me with self-control. When you have to sit at a board for hour after hour and remain focused, it makes classroom attention much easier." (Daniel's average chess game runs three to four hours in length.)

In addition to playing chess, Daniel also enjoys teaching chess to students at all levels. He serves as a private tutor to several students and has started a chess class after school at The Geneva School. When asked how he fares today against his brother Thomas, Daniel modestly replied, "I fare pretty well." When pushed further, "So that means you beat him?" Daniel replied, "Yes, pretty easily." It is certainly a loss Thomas takes in stride. He clearly feels great pride in seeing one of his students (especially his brother) surpass him.



## From the Desk of the Headmaster

The day I watched our first graduates receive their diplomas was one of the most rewarding days I have experienced. The personal satisfaction I felt that day has turned into a steady stream of delight as I have watched the recognition that our graduates are receiving. As that first graduating class now enters their senior year of college it has given me the opportunity to reflect upon the value of the education we are offering and the positive reception our alumni are receiving from college professors and administrators.

Parents are usually the first to recognize the benefits of classical education. They made the choice to send their son or daughter to Geneva, and they made the sacrifices necessary to assure that their child graduates from here as well. It has been rewarding to hear students who have arrived at college and suddenly realize the gift of education they received while at Geneva. One graduate recently shared that some of her friends have become very frustrated when they realize the things they were not taught in high school. "Everyone wants to be in my study group," she exclaimed. "I am comfortable reading any college material and I am also very calm when I have term papers due because of the training and high expectations I got used to at Geneva. My Geneva education has made my transition to college very painless and the majority of my friends here cannot say the same thing about their education." The value of the investment in this education continues to grow as it is recognized first by parents, then by the students themselves, and finally by third party endorsements.

Beginning with this issue of *The Courier* we will be devoting some space whenever possible to cover news from Geneva alumni. We want you to hear some of what we are hearing about the outworking of this educational model. It is often easy to recognize the day-to-day rewards of Geneva's classical education, but I hope that you also will begin to look beyond the horizon to see the potential long-range results of this education for your child.

## Alumni News

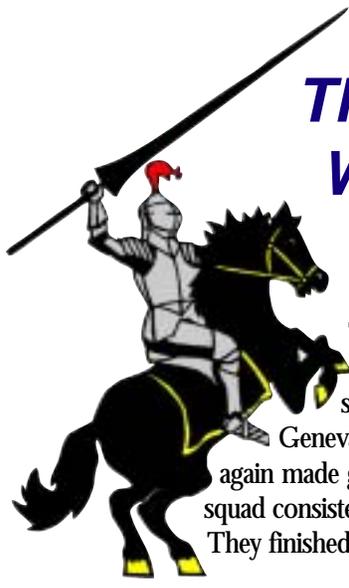
### Geneva Graduate Katy Maynard Studies in Scotland

Katy Maynard, salutatorian of The Geneva School's Class of 2002, is currently studying in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was awarded this special appointment from Furman University as part of an extensive work study internship program. In order to be accepted, Katy had to create and design her ideal work study program. She presented her idea this past spring and as a result was awarded the appointment.



Katy is currently serving as a political analyst in the Scottish National Party which was established in 1930. She is charged with helping to develop the party platforms after evaluating the voting patterns and concerns of both the youth and small businesses of Scotland. The platforms are being used as part of the political campaign for an upcoming

election to be held in May of 2005. Katy works mostly from her office in Edinburgh, but occasionally has to travel to Glasgow for political meetings. She has spent some time in the Scottish Parliament, recently having had lunch with Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish Parliament Group Leader. Ms. Sturgeon wanted to gain first-hand insights from Katy about her reflections on life and government in America. Each Friday Katy attends the University of Edinburgh to study Scottish literature and history. On the weekends she has time to explore the countryside and parts of continental Europe. During her fall break, Katy was able to spend ten days exploring Rome, and on one recent outing, she climbed the ruins of Pompeii.



# The Geneva School Varsity Soccer Team Wins Championship in the First Annual Kraze Fall High School Classic

The Varsity and Middle School soccer teams just finished their most successful seasons ever. In his third year coaching the Geneva varsity team, Coach Mike McAvoy once again made great progress with the team. This year's squad consisted of 15 guys and 5 girls in grades 9 - 12. They finished their season boasting a 9-1-1 record.



The highlight of the season was their championship win in the Kraze Fall High School Classic. The classic was hosted by Geneva with five local schools competing. The final game was played on Saturday, October 30, and the Geneva Knights defeated Orlando Christian Prep with a score of 3-2. The Kraze Classic was the first annual tournament hosted by The Geneva School. It was a fantastic game, played on a beautiful evening, in front of a huge crowd of very enthusiastic fans. Geneva Senior Trevor Swanson, Junior Marco Randazzo and Sophomore Johnny Frame each received All Tournament honors along with Senior Kyle Lewis, who also took home the Most Valuable Tournament Player award.

Athletic Director Dan Harger feels the time has come for a significant leap forward, beginning with next year's soccer season. Next fall, the Geneva Knights will move up to a state series level of play. They will compete geographically in a district schedule, and by the end of the season will be seeded for the district regional tournament. This will offer them the potential of moving up to state tournament level competition. Coach McAvoy and Athletic Director Harger both feel confident about the level of performance play the team will have next year. "I anticipate Geneva making some noise in our district next year," Athletic Director Harger added.

The Geneva Middle School is also very worthy of recognition, having dominated the entire season with their consistent play and superior skill. They ended their successful season losing only one game, the end-of-the-season tournament final. The team placed second in the championship game held on October 21. Coached by Andy McDiarmid, the team consisted of 14 players, many of whom brought with them years of experience playing soccer.



**Above:** Johnny Frame - Top Goal Scorer on the Varsity Team. **Right:** Eli Beates - Top Goal Scorer on the Middle School Team. **Far Right:** Kyle Lewis - Voted "Most Valuable Player" at the Kraze Tournament.

## TGS Volleyball Teams Place Second in Championship Tournaments

The Geneva School Girls' Varsity Volleyball team ended their winning season with a second place championship finish. The tournament was hosted by Geneva on October 12, and the Lady Knights were successful up until their final game when they were defeated by Forest Lake Academy. This was varsity volleyball coach Brandon Thomas's fifth year coaching the Knights' team. Coach Thomas was thrilled when twelve girls (four homeschoolers and eight Geneva students) came out to play this season. They finished the season with 14 wins and 7 losses. The team was led this year by Senior Danielle Wayne who completed her sixth year on the Lady Knights' volleyball team.



among them, which resulted in 19 girls signing up to play. In order to accommodate the high level of student turnout, two teams were formed. In their inaugural season the teams placed second and third in the championship tournament, held on October 30. Combining their wins and losses they had a total of only three losses. The girls were coached by sixth-grade teacher Melinda Brito and Geneva parent Cindy Halsted.

Coached by Bill Ledbetter, the Middle School Girls' Volleyball team had a very successful season finishing with a 10-4 record. The team, which was made up of both beginners and experienced players, improved greatly during the season and had a great deal of fun together in the process. At the beginning of the season they set a team goal to make it to the tournament level of play, and they succeeded in reaching their goal. They finished second in their championship final, held on October 30.

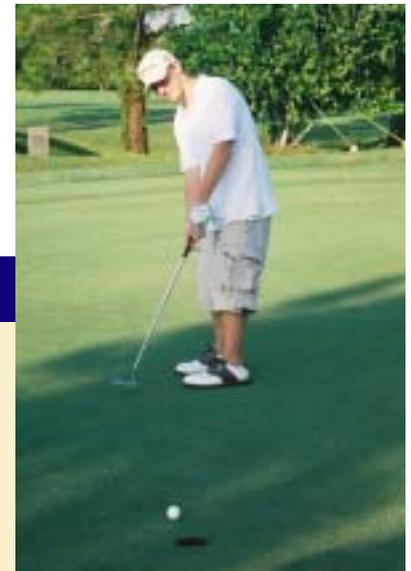
This fall was the first year Geneva introduced volleyball for the fifth and sixth grade girls, and what a victorious beginning they experienced! There was an overwhelming enthusiasm



The four teams combined for a 39-14 record with three of the four finishing as runners-up in their tournaments

## GENEVA GOLF

Michael Gmitro, along with three homeschoolers, made up the Geneva golf team. He played exceptionally well and helped bring the team through a winning season. The boys showed great sportsmanship and patience, weathering very well the difficulties due to three hurricanes.





John Kerry (Marco Randazzo) and George Bush (Kyle Lewis) perform a political song they wrote as part of a Government class project. Students were asked to produce a creative project that grappled with a social or political theme.

Kindergarten students may look as though they are merely drawing in art class but actually they are working on math and history at the same time. The classes are studying the Mayflower as part of their history study and have learned the number of men, women and children who traveled on the boat to America. They are creating a face to represent each of the 34 children who lived 'tween decks on the ship. They will reinforce their counting skills as they unroll the long line of faces.



## INSIDE THE WALLS OF GENEVA



Who says arithmetic is best done in the classroom? Mrs. Mann's 7th grade Pre-Algebra class moves outside to practice metric conversions. Students were assigned the task of estimating metric lengths of objects and then calculating their accuracy.

Amanda Goble and Creed Miller experiment with light as part of third grade's preparation for a darkroom experience with Mrs. Schaefer and Mrs. Harding. The students were evaluating the differences in items that were opaque, translucent and transparent.



## November

**November 5: Report Cards Sent Home**

**November 8: No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences**

**November 15: GPA Meeting - 7:00 PM in the Music Room**

**November 24: Noon Dismissal**

**November 25&26: No School - Thanksgiving Break**

## Moms in Touch

A group of dedicated moms meet 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 Parents Association

### *"My Role as a Geneva Parent"*

**Monday, November 15, 7:00 PM in the Music Room**

Gordon Cloke (President, Geneva Parents Association)  
John Maynard (TGS Board member and parent)

Many parents struggle with how exactly they can or should be involved at The Geneva School. This meeting is designed to clarify our thinking on our role as parents by considering questions such as the following:

- (1) How much is it appropriate to help my child with his or her homework? Does that change depending on their age or academic strengths?
- (2) What is the appropriate amount of time for me to be present in my child's classroom? What are the different ways I can help?
- (3) How else can I help make The Geneva School the best school for my children?
- (4) What is the GPA and why is it so unlike a regular "PTA" committee? Is it important for me to be involved?
- (5) What does it mean to be a member of the GPA, a GPA rep or a parent-elected Board member?

## The Geneva School

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