



# The Courier

The Geneva  
School  
newsletter  
february 2005

## ***Forward Momentum***

by Headmaster Robert Ingram

This has been one of the most exciting January's that we have ever experienced at The Geneva School and I would like to share with you some of the important milestones that have made it so memorable.

### ***All together for another year***

As many of you know, we have been agonizing over space issues for the upcoming school year and had thought we would have to find an additional facility to lease off site for several grades of the school. While our preferences had been to stay together as long as we could, we were having trouble making the space work. However, after some careful planning and creative thinking on the part of the administrative team, we will be able to stay here together for one more year.

### ***Re-enrollment***

We just completed re-enrollment for existing families at The Geneva School and we have the highest percentage of returning families that we have ever had. The percentage is 95%, and that exceeds the private school average with our accrediting agency, the Florida Council of Independent Schools. Their average attrition is 11% - 13%.

Retaining families and having a cohesive classroom from year to year benefits each student here. It means that there are more students who are on the same page academically and who are similarly prepared for the material they will be covering.

We regret the speed with which we conducted re-enrollment this year and anticipate being able to give notice of it earlier in the coming years. However, we greatly appreciate your

responsiveness and attention to these issues. The timing had to be moved up from when we had done this in previous years because of the community-wide trend we were seeing in other private schools of moving up the deadlines. Had we not moved up the deadline, some of the friends you had recommended to Geneva may have had to make other decisions for schooling because we would not have been able to let them know whether or not they had a spot at Geneva.

### ***Goal was met for the "Year-End Match"***

Due to the generosity of a matching gift, we had the opportunity to raise more money this year than ever before. We reached our goal and were able to receive all of the matching funds with donations and pledges totaling \$750,000. This has helped to fund additional staff positions and some increased benefits for faculty members that were added this year.

### ***Strong turnout for TGS Open House***

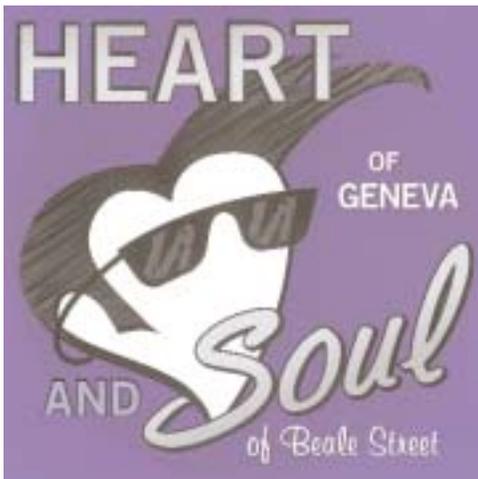
One hundred and thirty people attended our Open House events held the morning and evening of January 18th. We are encouraged with the strong interest shown in the school and the number of early applicants we have received.

### ***2005-2006 Upper School takes big steps forward***

We are pleased to announce that this coming year we will have our first year with a full graduating class of 19 students. Additionally, for the first time we will have two sections of 7th grade and two sections of 9th grade.

### ***Our Geneva Family***

While there have been many exciting things taking place in the life of The Geneva School,



## 11th Annual Geneva School Dinner and Auction

February 12, 2005, at 6:00 p.m.  
:08 Seconds Club

100 West Livingston Street, Downtown Orlando

Dress up your jeans, find some fancy flats and get ready to rock to the blues

at the 11th Annual Geneva School Dinner and Auction, "Heart of Geneva and Soul of Beale Street." We'll have fabulous food, a live band and lots of inspiring items for bidding. It will be an evening good for the heart and the soul as we show love, support, and generosity to Geneva and spend an enjoyable evening with one another. Call all your friends and arrange to sit together. This is a night you're not going to want to miss.

Get ready to bid on luxurious trips to Hawaii, California, Arizona, and West Virginia. And think

about this: an exclusive seven day fantasy trip to Croatia, Greece, or the Mediterranean on a private 88' sailboat. Does it get much better? If your budget does not quite stretch this far, fear not, there is a plethora of items in the Silent Auction to suit everyone's interests and pocketbook. And new this year are one-of-a-kind works of art created by our very own Geneva students. How can you resist?

So bring your wallets, exercise that bidding arm and get ready to heat up the auction room.

If you want to start bidding on a handful of the items before the big night, visit The Geneva School website and click on the auction link.

Would you like to be a part of the volunteer crew that makes this event possible? Contact Leigh Kennedy at [www.mkpkpk@aol.com](mailto:www.mkpkpk@aol.com) and she'll put you to work.

## ACYS CHAMPIONS!!

Monday Night football has never been as exciting as it was on January 17. The Geneva Knights 6th grade Flag-Football team entered the semi-final game of the ACYS Championship series. The temperature was in the low 40's, with a bitter wind chill, as the boys took the field. The challenge was to defeat The First Academy, a well-known competitor. The game was close throughout the first half, both teams scoring at every opportunity. With only 4 seconds left in the game, Dante Bichette threw a long pass into the end zone...right into the waiting hands of Cody Leiffer. The Geneva Knights captured the victory!!

Then, as the temperature began to dip further, the pressure began to mount...the championship game against Orangewood. Who would come out the victor? By all appearances, the Knights seemed the better team. Yet Orangewood came on strong. The Knights scored, Orangewood scored. Back and forth, each team vying for the championship trophy. Then, as the fans roared their encouragement, the Knights executed a rock solid goal line stand...not



### GENEVA'S 6TH GRADE FOOTBALL TEAM

Dante Bichette, Michael Dumas, Blake Habicht, Clay LeMasters, Cody Leiffer, Jared Paglialonga, Thomas Saunders, Caleb Smith, Israel Thompson, Rhodes Wall.

once, but twice! As the clock ran down, the Knights stood firm. At the final whistle, the Knights were declared the victors...49-35.

Never did the team fear defeat. Each and every game throughout the season, they laid it all on the line and left it all on the field. These Knights showed the courage and strength that exemplify the true warriors of TGS.

## LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

One of the phrases you hear frequently around the hallways of The Geneva School is that we want our students to "experience learning." We believe that this will go a long way toward deepening their understanding of whatever it is they are studying and yet also aide in their ability to better remember what they have learned.

That is precisely why even in our early days we began taking trips that corresponded to what our students were learning. As the school has grown, so have the array of educational travel opportunities we have offerd to students. During the grammar years the trips are shorter and closer to home, but as the students grow, so do the degree of opportunities.

Geneva's fifth grade students this year are traveling to study Colonial history first-hand. They will spend time in Jamestown, discovering what life was like seeing the James Fort, a Powhatan Indian Village. They will then visit Colonial Williamsburg and while there, they will see the Governor's Palace and the Powell House. The last leg of their tour takes them to Charlottesville where they will see the University of Virginia and the Thomas Jefferson Learning Center at Monticello, to correspond with their study of the Revolutionary War time period.

The sixth grade class is headed to Washington D.C., since they have been studying the time period of 1820-present. They begin with a worship service at The National Cathedral, followed by a tour of Mount Vernon. Next they head to the Smithsonian to see first hand exhibits of the discoveries made during their historical time period. Their next visit is many a child's dream spot the Spy Museum. Over the course of their study, sixth grade students participate in an in depth study of the Holocaust. Students will learn even more



about this tragic time in history when they visit the Holocaust Museum and see Daniel's Story. They will also get to experience the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery and tour many other major sights in our nation's capital, including the U.S. Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, various war memorials, and the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center. The closing highlight of their trip will be a visit to the White House.



Students in grades 9 - 12 have the opportunity to experience Germany on a trip led by Academic Dean Michael Eatmon. The trip, titled "Ruins of the Reich," will delve into the sights, sounds, heart, and soul of WWII Germany, to the end that the portentous words of George Santayana prove not inescapable: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

During the thirteen-day reflection upon Hitler's Germany, they'll walk the streets of "Brown Shirts" Munich, the cradle of the nascent National Socialist German Workers Party and the venue where Hitler first elucidated his Mein Kampf plans for world-domination. They'll stand before the impressive stands of Nuremberg's Nazi rally grounds, where thousands upon thousands stood rank-and-file, saluting their Fuhrer with the now infamous "heil." They will view the barracks and labor yards of Dachau, where a casual word can barely be spoken for the austerity of its hallowed ground. Finally, they'll traipse the boulevards and alleys of the Reichshauptstadt, Berlin, once one of the more formidable and diabolical powers the world

## February 2005

February 12: The 11th Annual Geneva School Dinner & Auction - 6:00 PM at :08 Seconds Club, Orlando.

February 18: Progress Reports Sent Home (Grades 3 - 12).

## 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.

## Annual Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game

**Mark Your Calendars**  
Friday, March 4

Bring the whole family for food and a lot of fun!

## The Geneva Parents Association

Monday, February 28  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
TGS Music Room

### *Ars Gratia Artis?*

Have you ever wondered why The Geneva School emphasizes the study of Latin? Come and hear our Latin teachers explain why we believe it is so important, and maybe pick up

## The Geneva School

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Winter Park, FL 32792