



The Courier

The Geneva
School
newsletter
APRIL 2005

The Geneva School Hires Full-time Development Director

The Geneva School recently hired Larry Loftis as full-time Development Director. This is a brand new position for the School, giving him responsibility for spearheading all of Geneva's fundraising efforts. He will be representing the School to the broader Orlando community, and making contacts on the School's behalf to articulate the vision of The Geneva School and classical Christian education.



Larry graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Florida where he also earned his Law degree. He practiced law for 14 years and simultaneously earned a Master's in Theology from Reformed Theological Seminary. In 2001, he formed his own company, serving as a national lecturer and instructor for seminars working with various prominent companies.

He has published many articles in areas related to finance, legal issues and raising capital. Most recently he has written a Barnes & Noble best seller book titled *Profit by Investing in Real Estate Tax Liens*. It even held the #1 slot for the real estate category.

Since the School's growth and future plans include a capital campaign for land and a new facility, the Board was anxious to fill this position as soon as the right candidate became available. They knew the School should begin preparing *now* for that next important step. When Larry applied the Board quickly realized he was the right person for the job. Larry will also be working to ensure that The Geneva School meets and exceeds its annual goals for donations, which cover the scholarship fund and any operational deficits. This includes the oversight of the annual Board match, the Spring Auction, the fiscal year-end request, and various smaller fundraising activities that are initiated by students and/or parents.

Additionally, Larry will identify new sources of income for the school, including new individuals, corporate sponsors, charitable foundations and alumni, and he will write grant proposals for such groups to entertain. He will also maintain a leading presence in the identification, evaluation, and solicitation of major gift prospects.

We thank God for once again providing for our needs and look forward with anticipation as Larry represents Geneva in the wider community here in Central Florida and beyond.

Curriculum Mapping

In order to continue to advance and improve our curriculum, Geneva's Grammar School faculty and administration have made a commitment to begin the process of Curriculum Mapping in the 2005-2006 school year. It is an ongoing process which takes a number of years to complete. Curriculum Mapping was developed by Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs for the purpose of capturing the course content, skills, assessments, and methodologies that are actually in use in each classroom in linear chronological form. When completed, it is a comprehensive, easily-accessed representation of the daily reality of each classroom. Using one of the available computer programs, the data collected can be displayed, analyzed, and compared in a myriad of ways, making in-depth evaluation of the curriculum possible. Adjustments and improvements can then be made wherever needed. We are very excited about the opportunity this method affords us to continually reform and improve the educational experience we can provide Geneva's students.

Grammar School Science Fair

by Vanessa Schaefer

"Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God." Job 37:14

This is exactly what the students in grades 3-5 did over the past several months. The students took time out from their busy schedules to focus on one area of interest in the world around them. Some students literally journeyed into the worlds of the butterfly and the Florida scrub jay. Some became resident geologists, botanists and electricians. All of their efforts led up to The Geneva School Grammar School Science Fair.

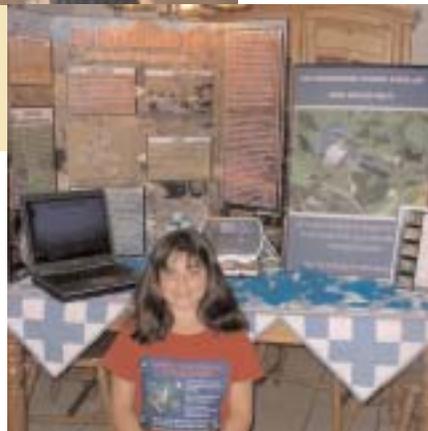
Students conducted research, experiments and demonstrations which were then highlighted at the Science Fair, held on Tuesday, March 15.

A total of 85 projects were on display as well as our own "Hall of Scientists." Presented by the fifth-grade students, The "Hall of Scientists" featured scientists from the past as well as from the present. George Washington Carver, Albert Einstein, and Archimedes visited us from the past. Our featured modern-day scientists were Carl Sagan, instrumental with the Voyager and Mariner expeditions, and Dr. Steven N. Ward, expert on tsunamis and uncle of fifth-grader Kyle Shepherd. The science projects themselves ranged from a seashell collection to a study on the feeding habits of birds to experimenting with carpet cleaners and laundry detergents. All of the projects offered information and facts that enlightened those who visited the various displays.

A short program was given during the course of the evening. Mrs. Lewis extended a warm welcome to all of those who braved the rainy weather to join us for the evening. Four different projects were shared through oral presentations, and a hovercraft demonstration was conducted. We would like to thank James Newlin, Andre Wardian, Ben Habicht, Jared Rivers, Bryce Natale and Seth Wagner for their interesting and informative presentations. An award ceremony followed our presenters.



From the top:
Daniella Hankey,
Danny Downward,
Cori LaPinsky



Most of the Grammar School teachers served as our judges. Each judge awarded points for the following areas: scientific thought, thoroughness of the study, clarity of communication, skill demonstrated by the student, and creativity demonstrated in the display and project. Each student could receive up to 100 points. The scores were close. Most of the projects scored in the 80's and 90's. Many of those who were in attendance remarked on the excellent quality of the projects and displays. I am very proud of each and every student and their efforts in completing a science fair project.

A BIG thank-you goes to all of the teachers who gave of their time to judge these projects. It was not an easy task. Thank you to all of the families who supported and encouraged the students as they worked through the challenges of completing a science fair project. I would also like to thank Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Thompson, and the P.E. department for their support, and a special thanks goes to David Petrak and Edgar Lane for the set-up and break-down of the fair.

The fair was well attended by family and friends. Many students are already planning for next year. To God be the glory!

Science Fair Awards

Experiment:

1st Place - Daniella Hankey

2nd Place - Jenna Stanley/Jaclyn Crews

3rd Place (tie) - Brett Galloway & LesLeigh Herzog

Demonstrations:

1st Place - Danny Downward

2nd Place (tie) - Benjamin Habicht/Jared Rivers/Andre Wardian & Austin Schultz

3rd Place - Emily Bingham/Elizabeth Canter

Above and Beyond:

1st Place - Cori LaPinsky

2nd Place - Forrest Wall

3rd Place - Philip Trevisani

GRAMMAR SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our fourth-grade girls' basketball teams! Both of Geneva's fourth-grade girls' teams made the playoffs and faced each other in the championship final! This of course led to a Geneva first and second place finish in their league. John and Laura Riley coached the winning team and the second-place team was coached by Kim Dike.



First-place team - sitting on floor: Ellie Dreyer; Maggie Kennedy; Shannon Riley; Rachel Auld; Calli Bigham; Lily Cloke; and Alana Parish.
Second place team - standing: Walker Calhoun; Nicole Auld; Darby Steinberger; Jenna Stanley; Daniella Hankey; Jessie Anderson; Kaitlyn Dike; and Anna Halsted (not pictured)

Geneva's two fifth/sixth-grade girls' teams both made the playoffs. The teams, coached by Lee Arnold and Tim Carroll, came in second and fourth.

Many thanks to Cindy Halsted who acted as head coach for both the fourth-grade and fifth/sixth-grade girls' teams. Cindy worked with all four teams on the funda-

mentals of basketball during the first half of all their practice sessions.

Geneva's boys' teams also experienced success this basketball season. The third/fourth-grade team, coached by Jeff Paglialonga, and the fifth/sixth-grade team, coached by RTS student, Kyle Henderson, also made the playoffs. Each team finished the season with five wins and only three losses.

Geneva's Middle School and Varsity basketball teams have a lot to look forward to in the very near future!

Go Knights!

Congratulations, Foster Lerner

After submitting a tape with examples of his music ability and his three musical CDs with the Orlando Deanery Boy Choir, Foster Lerner, a Geneva tenth-grader, was recently selected to attend the 2005 MasterWorks Festival this summer. Foster is an accomplished musician playing violin, viola, handbells, piano and recorder.

The MasterWorks Festival is designed to train up the next generation of performing artists to be dedicated Christian witnesses in the arts world. For twenty years, the Christian Performing Artists' Fellowship (CPAF) has proclaimed the Gospel throughout the world of the performing arts, from the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. to Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre.

SAT Testing for Students in Grades 1 - 8

Stanford Achievement Tests will be administered the week of April 25 - 29 to all first - eighth grade students. Testing will be done in the morning, so please make every effort to have your child at school on time, well-nourished and rested.

Though the SAT does not coordinate fully with the order or content of our entire curriculum, it does provide national normative group comparisons for our students in the areas of Math, Language Arts, Reading, and Spelling. We are able to use the test results to identify weaknesses and strengths in individual students and in our curriculum.

Results will be sent home at the end of the year. Information on how to make sense of the results is on the school web site at the very bottom of the Curriculum page.

April 2005

April 11: GPA Meeting - 7pm in Music Room

April 18: No School

April 25 - 29: Standardized Testing for Grades 1 - 8

April 29: Sports Banquet for all Middle and Varsity team athletes (6 - 9 PM)

April 29: Progress Reports Sent Home

Graduation Ceremonies

Baccalaureate

Sunday, May 22, at 2:00 pm
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Winter Park

Commencement

Friday, May 27, at 1:00 pm
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Orlando

Please mark your calendars and join us for the graduation of Geneva's class of 2005.

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 Parents Association

Monday, April 11
7:00 - 8:30 PM
TGS Music Room

Ars Technica

Focusing on the role of technology at The Geneva School we will hear from David Petrak, Director of IT, and Gordon Cloke, who has had a significant involvement in the School's increasing use of technology.

How does technology relate to classical teaching methods used at Geneva? What might the future hold in this area?

The Geneva School

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