



The Courier

The Geneva
School
newsletter
May 2005

Flight for Education - 2005 Washington Briefing

While working on the auction this year, one of the committee members came up with an idea for a separate fundraiser. In addition to raising money, it would also serve as an opportunity to introduce The Geneva School, and classical Christian education, to some individuals who may not be familiar with it. Furthermore, it would enhance some of the current Geneva families' appreciation for the model which is molding their children. The first "Flight for Education" came to fruition in early April when twenty-six of Geneva's donors and friends traveled to Washington, D.C.

The participants experienced high-level briefings by leaders in the areas of politics, academics and Christian thought. Two of the goals for the trip were to gain a more thoughtful understanding of the critical issues facing our nation and the church and to develop insights on how to advance the educational vision of The Geneva School. The participants learned about the intermingling of education and religion and the role that each one plays in the political arena. One of the comments often made by the speakers was an expression of thankfulness to the Geneva group for taking such an active role in education and understanding the importance of including politics in their thinking. The presenters expressed the vital need to have citizens who were engaged in thought about these subjects. This is something that each member of the group was personally interested in, and yet they also saw this as an area of significant importance for The Geneva School's mission to have students who are engaged in all aspects of life.



The Geneva School's Flight for Education participants standing in front of the Capitol building

One of the programs the group attended dealt with "The State of the Nation" and was held at the US Senate building with several members of Congress. Later they attended a White House Briefing on "The State of Education." Geneva's group was briefed by members of the White House leadership with a strong focus on faith-based initiatives and education. Later, the group retreated for dinner to the famous Evermay, where they were treated to a presentation on "The State of the Church," by Dr. Os Guinness and Dr. James Hunter.

One of the highlights for the participants was a series of seminars on the second day at the Center for Ethics and Public Policy. David Brooks, a journalist for the New York Times, spoke on the subject of "Kicking the Secularist Habit." He focused on the impor-

tance of integrating religion and ethics in the public realm. David Brooks along with several other presenters gave insightful commentary on how Christians are helping to educate elite members of the media regarding issues of common importance between Christianity and public policy.

One of the group's participants, who had previously never been involved with Geneva, has taken many Washington trips in the past with other groups. He commented at the conclusion of Geneva's trip that he experienced the most thought-provoking and diverse line-up of speakers that he had ever encountered during many similar types of trips. Members of Geneva's Board of Governors, who helped organize the trip, will be meeting this week to debrief and begin planning the next trip's itinerary. As soon as plans begin to take shape, information will be provided for those who would like to participate in next year's event.

Grammar School Faculty Changes for Next Year

As we close out one academic year and look forward to the next, The Geneva Grammar School would like to announce several changes and additions to its faculty for the upcoming school year.

After molding Geneva's kindergarten program for the past eight years, Carol Reaves will be transitioning from classroom teaching to a new role as Early Childhood Director. She will be responsible for the training and supervision of new teachers and for ensuring the continuation of the philosophy, methodology, and content of the classical kindergarten program she created. Her experience and expertise will be of great benefit to Geneva, and the entire teaching staff is excited about the opportunity to learn from her.

Robin Candeto will be transitioning from the kindergarten classroom to an entirely new role as Curriculum Mapping Coordinator. Robin's giftedness in the area of organization will be utilized for this very important project. Fortunately, Robin will also keep a hand in kindergarten by teaching Music and Movement throughout the school year.

Replacing Carol and Robin in the kindergarten classrooms next year will be Leigh O'Donoghue and Heidi Heinsch. Leigh has served as a kindergarten aide this past year and has been a Geneva Mom for four years. She has also had experience in home-schooling one of her children. Her enthusiasm, skill with children, and dedication to classical education will be a most welcome addition to the kindergarten program. Heidi Heinsch has nine years of teaching experience in Minnesota and Wisconsin,

most of which was spent in kindergarten, her first love. She and her family recently moved to Florida from Wisconsin where her husband, Gregg, was the pastor of Faith Community Church in Hudson. She has three children, one of whom, Leah, is currently enrolled in Rhetoric School. Her joyful spirit, her love for children and teaching, and her considerable experience and expertise will be a welcome addition to Geneva.

Chandler Mikkelson (formerly Touart) will be joining the third-grade team this coming fall. She has been a Teacher Candidate Trainee in the third and fourth grade classes this year where she has worked closely with our faculty and substituted regularly. She is characterized by an ardent desire to learn from others and a professional and joyful approach to her work. Mrs. Mikkelson will graduate from Belhaven College in October with a Masters in the Art of Teaching. She is welcomed most enthusiastically by all.

The Geneva School will be adding a third section of fifth grade this fall and has hired Carolyn Schwanz to join the existing fifth-grade team. Mrs. Schwanz and her husband, Paul, recently moved here from Virginia where she gained eleven years of experience as an upper elementary school teacher. She earned a Masters in Teaching from George Mason University in 1998. Carolyn places primary importance on the relationship between teacher and student and has a special affinity for pre-teens. The Geneva School welcomes her professional skills and experience, her desire to share her faith, and her dedication to learning all she can about Classical philosophy and methodology.



It is with a great deal of sadness that we say goodbye to Nan Mann, who has taught math at The Geneva School for the last eight years. Nan is retiring from teaching this year with a desire to pursue some other interests and have more free time to spend with her husband, Gary.

Nan has created a fabulous program for math in the Dialectic and Rhetoric grades which helped bring math to life for students. She has taken abstract concepts and given them dimen-

sion and tried to help students resolve the age-old question, "When will I ever use this in real life?" She began such traditions as her geometric quilt, which is auctioned off each year at the school's fund-raiser. "Mann's Madness" is a game she created that is played to help students review before tests. "Pi Day," celebrated each year, is a day in which students bring in projects related to the study of Pi and of course, all types of edible pies on which to feast. The students in her Algebra class use the standard equation of a parabola to construct a solar cooker. They then place a hot dog on the focus to see the reflective properties of the parabola steam the hot dog in the sun.

Nan's creative abilities to teach math, her gracious spirit and her heart for students will be greatly missed in the years to come.

"The fifth grade's long, fun, interesting, wonderful Williamsburg trip."

LesLeigh Herzog summarizing her fifth-grade field trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, on April 4-8

This field trip represented a sizeable investment of time and money, but its benefits were even greater. Daily activities and highlights of the trip were recorded by students in their journals. Here is a sample of what they experienced.

The first day was spent on a bus from Winter Park to Williamsburg. Along the way John Youderian celebrated his birthday, and Rand Deuchler's grandmother met the group at a dinner stop in Emporia, Virginia. For many students, the time spent together on the bus was a highlight of the trip.

On Tuesday the class toured Jamestown, famous as the site of the first English settlement in America, and Yorktown, symbolic for the end of British rule. At both places, students were able to experience firsthand what life would have been like as colonists, Native Americans, or as soldiers in the Revolutionary War. Many found the Jamestown Glassmakers to be especially impressive. After the day's experience, Christina Halsted concluded that if she had lived back then, she "would have trusted God and nature for a lot more things such as good, clean, water..." "I would be a captain on a ship," wrote Davis Anderson with certainty. "I would sail the Discovery and have the best crew."

The centerpiece of the trip was Wednesday, which was spent in Williamsburg. It was a full day, including a tour of the Governor's Palace, dinner at Shield's Tavern, and a simulated tour of duty in the Colonial militia (Jonathan Smith, the proud son of a West Point graduate said this was his favorite part: "I like training!"). They capped the night off with a Williamsburg ghost story, followed by a fun time in the hotel pool. A lasting memory of this day was Philip Trevisani playing his harmonica with the instrumentalists in Shield's Tavern.

On Thursday, the students visited the University of Virginia's Rotunda and Monticello, both of which were designed by Thomas Jefferson. For Lucy Candeto, her favorite part of the trip was "going to Monticello and seeing Thomas Jefferson's gardens." Alyssa Shriner thought the surrounding mountains were "the prettiest I have ever

seen." The students were surprised to learn that Monticello and the Rotunda are World Heritage sites, on a par with the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China. A stop at Mitchie's Tavern, with colonial dancing (and the gift shop), and more time at the pool rounded out the day.

Celebrations, simulations, music, dancing, history, art, and social activities - taken altogether this field trip represented the best of what The Geneva School offers its students. As Christina Halsted wrote, "I loved doing the things you could do for yourself, like, instead of hearing about drawing water from a well, we did it ourselves."

The fifth-grade students represented their families and The Geneva School exceptionally well, as reflected by the comments of their tour guides and others. In one restaurant, a high school principal came over just to pay his compliments and asked Mr. Rowe to relay the message to his principal. In fact, the professional tour escort, who was with the group the entire trip, described the Geneva students as the cream of the crop, both academically and socially.



Left: Sammy Taylor and John Youderian - soldiers at Yorktown.

Below Left: Statue of Thomas Jefferson in front of the University of Virginia's Rotunda.

Below Right: The group "drilling" as a colonial militia in Williamsburg.



Many thanks are due to all those who made this trip possible, including parents, administrators and others who prayed for the group while they were gone. Special thanks to Mr. Rowe who led the trip and to the faithful chaperones who sacrificed a great deal of time and comfort to serve their children. Thanks also to Mrs. Zuclich and Mrs. Mawhinney for their faithful help in planning the trip. Finally, thanks to the Lord for His loving-kindness and tender mercies, displayed even on a fifth-grade field trip to Virginia.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND VARSITY ATHLETICS ROUND-UP



The Geneva School Sports Banquet was held on Friday, April 29, with middle school and varsity athletes being honored.

Twenty-one athletes were awarded **Scholar Athlete** pins for competing in at least two upper school sports and maintaining a 3.6 weighted GPA or better for the first three grading periods: Steve Candeto, Philip Deuchler, Kelsi Gumpert, Sophie Meyer, Ali Looke, Becky Lopdrup, Bennett Robinson, Zach Schutz, Jason Welday, Abbie Beates, Fran Cloke, Kara Jones, Alexis Fulmer, Amanda Rowdon, Amanda McPhail, Liz Schutz, Christalyn Steers, Shekeria Stewart, Emily Hernandez, Melissa Stevens, and Trevor Swanson.

Nine athletes were awarded **Three Sports** pins for competing in three upper school sports in one school year: Zach Schutz, Josiah Nethery, Rebecca Lopdrup, Abbie Beates, Fran Cloke, Kara Jones, Shekeria Stewart, Melissa Stevens, and Candy Beach.

High honors were given to four Geneva athletes who have made outstanding contributions to the Geneva Athletics program this year. Due to their significant athletic abilities, Amanda McPhail and Marco Randazzo were awarded **Athlete of the Year** awards. Amanda made a huge contribution to the volleyball and softball teams this year, and she is already planning to lead Geneva's first Varsity girls' soccer team in the spring of 2006. Although he had never played soccer before, Marco joined the boys' Varsity soccer team this past fall and quickly became their top goal scorer. He is also a very talented basketball player and a joy to watch.

The School's most prestigious athletic award is entitled the **Excelsior Award**. It recognizes high moral character, exemplary sportsmanship and Christian leadership. Danielle Wayne and Trevor Swanson were this year's winners. Danielle has played on the Varsity volleyball team since it began six years ago, and she joined the basketball team two years ago. She has been a faithful level-headed team-member and has given leadership in this her senior year. Trevor has played Varsity soccer for the past four years and joined the boys' tennis team in his senior year. He has been a model of exemplary sportsmanship and Christian leadership.

As Geneva's upper school continues to grow, so does the athletic program. Beginning this fall, Geneva will sport its first ever cross country team. If the girls get their way, a Varsity girls' soccer team will also start training in the late fall. The volleyball, cross country, basketball, softball, tennis and Varsity boys' soccer teams will each play at the district level next year. As the move is made to district play, there is certainly reason for excitement. This will undoubtedly mean stiffer competition and longer seasons than what we have grown accustomed to in the past. It will also mean that for the first time, The Geneva School will participate in district tournaments. Because of heightened interest in Geneva athletics and

the increase in the number of students in the upper school, competitive try-out situations in certain sports will likely take place for the first time in Geneva's athletic history.



Clockwise from the top: Marco Randazzo, Trevor Swanson, Amanda McPhail, and Danielle Wayne





Kitty Martinez talks to the eighth grade life management class.

The Geneva School eighth grade students have discovered in their Life Management class that there is quite a bit to learn about life. They have studied a wide variety of topics including spiritual disciplines, health and nutrition, and personal finance. These eighth graders have plumbed the depths of living in this world skillfully, even considering their futures in a number of ways. They have completed a courtship and marriage unit - this could be considered their favorite topic. However, many would have to say that the calling and careers unit has had a strong impact on how they view themselves and their lives to come.

To kick off this unit, Mrs. Kitty Martinez, the wife of Florida's newest U.S. Senator, Mel Martinez, spoke to the class on April 13. Mrs. Martinez was gracious enough to find time in her busy schedule to address these 20 dialectic students and to share with them wonderful insight she has gained. She related to the class the story of her husband's fleeing from Cuba during the revolution when he was their age and how that event has impacted their lives and who they are today. She also told the class how God had prepared her in a number of ways to be the wife of a senator and challenged them to consider a life of public service to our country. Her story about riding on Air Force One was a particular favorite of the students, yet she was careful to remind them that her life was not always one of glamour and prestige, but one of hard work and sacrifice. Mrs. Martinez gave the class a broader view of what they can become as they make choices in life. In sharing the story of her husband, she provided a living example of the way God

can use an ordinary eighth grader to accomplish great things.

INSIDE THE WALLS OF GENEVA

Angelina Razzani and Miles Brown take turns pulling each other in chariot races.



Archaeologists Ashton Roberts, Catherine Deuchler, Moira Cloke, Claire Fuller (sister of Jona), and Brad Daniels chipping away at buried treasures.

Second grade students celebrated "Egypt Day" on Friday, April 29. The festivities began with students coming in costume to a magnificent Egyptian feast. Bringing the second grade history curriculum to life, the students then participated in an excavation, mended ancient broken pots, made a replica of the Rosetta Stone, stomped on grapes, wrapped mummies, and participated in chariot races.

A fun time was had by all, thanks to the fabulous parent volunteers and Geneva's wonderful second grade team - Beth Reeves, Mary Chris Rowe, Katie Sullivan, and teacher aides Jennifer Duncan and Leslie Pollard.

May 2005

May 6: No School

May 22: Baccalaureate Service (see note)

May 25: Noon Dismissal (Grades 7 - 12)

May 26: Semester Exams and Noon Dismissal (Grades 7 - 12)

May 27: Semester Exams and Graduation. Grammar School students are dismissed at 10:30 AM.

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.

Baccalaureate Service

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

Dr. Frank James, President of Reformed Theology Seminary, will address the graduates.

Commencement Ceremony

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

Dr. David John Seel Jr., former Headmaster of The Cambridge School of Dallas, will give the commencement address.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the graduation of Geneva's class of 2005. These celebrations are not only for the graduating class and their families, but rather for the whole Geneva family. Let your children see where they will be in not too many years, and encourage them to celebrate the achievements of students they see every day.

The Geneva School

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