



# The Courier

The Geneva  
School  
newsletter  
SEPTEMBER 2005

## September 2005

**Sept 5:** Labor Day - No School

**Sept 8:** Grammar School Open House, 7:00 p.m.

**Sept 12:** Seminar with family counselor, Robin Reisert, for parents of students in grades 6 - 8; 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Music Room

DEADLINE FOR SALLY FOSTER AND ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUND-RAISER

**Sept 14:** Senior Dinner, 7 p.m. at the Citrus Club

**Sept 16:** Kick-off Auction meeting, 8:30 a.m. in the Music Room

Nomination Deadline for Parent Representative to The Geneva School Board of Governors

**Sept 19:** Dialectic/Rhetoric School Open House, 7:00 p.m.

**Sept 23:** Progress Reports Sent Home (Grades 3 - 12)

**Sept 29:** Noon Dismissal  
Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Sept 30:** Student Holiday  
Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## Moms in Touch

Led by Julie Tressler, a group of dedicated moms meets every Monday 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**  
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## THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLING STUDENTS

As the Dialectic and Rhetoric School grows larger, the role of small Discipleship groups becomes increasingly important. One of the hallmarks of Geneva has been its small classes, intimate friendships, and close-knit community. Because grades 7 - 12 have doubled in the last two years, efforts have been made to retain the close contact students have enjoyed with one another and their faculty. Our newest emphasis is to create small groups of 11 - 13 students that are paired up with two faculty members. These groups will meet every other week throughout the course of the year. Not only will they foster peer friendships and create mentoring opportunities with faculty members, they may well develop into some special opportunities during the course of the year as well.

For the purpose of the Discipleship groups 6th graders are being included with grades 7 and 8. All three grades will spend the year focusing upon prayer. Using materials that are written by Headmaster Robert Ingram, they will have the opportunity to encounter biblical prayers that have been preserved in scripture for our use today. They will look at the various forms of prayer, including adoration, confession, supplication, thanksgiving and intercession. They will experience examples of rich, stirring prayers offered by godly men and women through the ages, and through it all, they will have the opportunity to pray with and for one another.

Using a very different approach for their small groups, the students in grades 9 -12 will participate in the video series by Ravi Zacharias entitled *Deliver Us from Evil: Restoring the Soul in a Disintegrated Culture*. The main point that Ravi emphasizes is the deep disfigurement - due to escalating violence and cultural decadence - that is eating away at the heart of our culture and the soul's of our people. The series not only highlights the implications of varying worldviews but also the hope of the Gospel.

Each time the small group meets they will view a 20 minute video presentation and then spend the remaining time discussing the content and making application to our culture, lives, and school. Each student has also been given a copy of the accompanying book as a means of delving further into each topic and being even more prepared to enter into the small group discussion.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

*Editor's Note: Much of the work that is done by Geneva's Board of Governors is accomplished through various committees that work alongside the School's Administrative Team. In each of the next few issues of The Courier we will focus on one of these committees. This month's focus is the Academic Affairs Committee.*

Last spring the Board of Governors established an Academic Affairs committee to serve as a liaison between the School and the Board on issues affecting the academic life of the School. Although more common at the collegiate level, most academic institutions have this type of organizational team that oversees the various aspects of a school's academic vision such as its culture, curriculum, and faculty training. Geneva's Academic Affairs Committee, initially formed as an ad hoc committee of the Board, has been commissioned to help assess, clarify, and increase awareness of academic affairs at the School.

Over this past summer a series of initiatives were launched to improve specific areas of Geneva's academic program, including curriculum, communications, and teacher training. Of particular note are the completion of a more comprehensive

Scope-and-Sequence for the Grammar School (grades 1-6) and detailed Course Descriptions for all course offerings in the Dialectic and Rhetoric School. Additionally, new Employee Handbooks, Administrative Handbooks, Faculty Handbooks, Academic Handbooks, and Parent - Student Handbooks have been revised or created over the summer. A comprehensive Communication Protocol document is also complete. Additionally, much thought has been put into improving teacher training through a number of mentoring initiatives involving formal and informal observations, discussion groups, and individual professional development plans.

These 2005-06 academic initiatives are designed to address the most pressing concerns identified at the conclusion of last year by both administrative and non-administrative members of the Academic Affairs Committee. It is our expectation that these projects will greatly enhance the academic experience of all Geneva students in the months and years ahead. The Committee, faculty, and administrative team are to be commended for their work in this vital area of the School.

## THE FALL SEASON OF SPORTS IS OFF TO A GREAT START

It will come as no surprise that just as Geneva's student body has more than doubled in the past two years the quality of the athletic program and the quality and level of proficiency has improved tremendously.

Under the leadership of Bill Ledbetter, Geneva's Grammar School athletic program is a great way for young athletes to learn skills and confidence in their chosen sport. This fall 105 students in grades K4 - 5 will compete in the Association of Christian Youth Sports (ACYS) soccer league, and 16 fifth and sixth grade girls will compete in a Christian Volleyball league.

Many of Geneva's Dialectic and Rhetoric athletes (grades 7 - 12), and even a number of sixth graders, have been training since the beginning of August preparing themselves for their fall season of sports. Out of a total of 128 students in the upper school, 65 are participating in athlet-

ics this fall. The varsity soccer, volleyball, golf and cross country teams will play at the state district level and will compete against schools with up to six times as many students in their upper schools. We are eager to see how these teams match up to the competition. Come out and support the teams if you are able - the game schedules are published on the athletics page of the school web site.

Grateful thanks go to all the team coaches. These men and women love their sport and give up many hours to train the athletes and to encourage them to be the best they can be.



Geneva students Tanner "Gumbo" Stanley and Davis Anderson (members of the Maitland All Star Little League Team who reached the quarter finals of the Little League World Series Championship) were honored on Friday, September 2, in a school-wide celebration in the gym.

## SUPPORTING FINE ARTS IN ORLANDO

Part of The Geneva School's vision is to "be an institution of cultural gravitas." Supporting the fine arts in our community is one of the many ways we strive to realize this vision. We are pleased to announce that The Geneva School is co-sponsoring a choral concert by the Choir of Men and Boys of Gloucester Cathedral, England. This outstanding choir will be performing at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke (located at 130 N. Magnolia Avenue in downtown Orlando) Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 PM. This concert is part of St. Luke's flagship concert series, provided free of charge to the Central Florida community. Please mark this event on your family cal-



endar and plan to enjoy an evening of music in the great choral tradition of the Anglican Church.

In addition to your presence at the concert you can further support this event by assisting with home-stays for the members of the choir. If you have two or more separate beds available and would be interested in hosting, please contact Michael Miller at school ([mjmiller@genevaschool.org](mailto:mjmiller@genevaschool.org) or ext. 210). The choir is in need of accommodation the evenings of October 24 - 27. Michael would be very pleased to answer any questions you will have about your hosting responsibilities.

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

September 29 & 30

In an effort to maintain effective communication, Geneva has set aside time for Parent/Teacher Conferences. These conferences are not required, and you may feel that you are already up-to-date with your child's situation. If so, you do not need to schedule a conference.

Conference times may be scheduled on **Thursday, September 29, from 1:00pm - 4:00pm and on Friday, September 30, from 8:00am - 4:00pm (excluding 12:00pm - 1:00pm)** in 20-minute increments with Grammar School teachers and 15-minute increments with Dialectic/Rhetoric School teachers. Grammar School parents may schedule a conference with their child's classroom teachers and with the LLAMPS (Latin, Library, Art, Music, PE, Science) teachers. The 4th grade teachers will be conferencing together so that only one appointment is necessary. Parents may also schedule conferences with Michele Lewis, the Grammar School Principal, and with Scott Bucko, the Dialectic and Rhetoric Principal. These conferences will be scheduled in 20-minute increments.

Please call the school at (407) 332-6363 as soon as

possible in order to schedule a conference time. Grammar School parents should speak with Cheryl Crowe at extension 223, and Dialectic/Rhetoric School parents should speak with Caroline Newkirk at extension 206. If you would like a conference but are not able to come during these two days, please contact your child's teacher and arrange another time to meet.

**Babysitting:** Care for children during your meeting time will be provided at the school by our senior class, who is raising money for their senior trip. They will be paid through your donations. When you call to schedule your conference, please let Cheryl and Caroline know if you will need our babysitting service.

**Kindergarten Parents:** The Kindergarten teachers will be arranging their own schedule for conferences; you will receive separate information about it.

**K4 Parents:** You will not have conferences on these days. If you would like to meet with Mrs. Stewart, please arrange another time with her.

## **FOUR SENIORS TO PRESENT SENIOR THESES**

This year Geneva's senior class has 19 students - the biggest graduating class in the school's 13-year history. Four of these students have elected to present a Senior Thesis at the end of the school year. Under the supervision of a number of administrators, faculty, members of the Geneva family, and even others in the wider Orlando community, these four undaunted seniors are embarking on a course of study that will require much diligence and self-discipline. They must define the area of study they intend to pursue, complete their year-long reading research, present a written thesis, give an oral defense of their findings, and entertain questions from faculty and members of their thesis committee.

This class option was offered only to students who have maintained a high GPA and who have a proven track record of self motivation and impeccable study habits. Other seniors had expressed interest and would have participated, but determined that their present academic schedules and extra-curricular activities would not permit them to fully devote themselves to the demands of a Senior Thesis. Congratulations to these students for their willingness to pursue this optional but demanding course of study.



Liz Schutz, Jen Lopdrup, Katy Storrs, and Austin Huggins

**Liz Schutz** will be studying the forms and sources of evil through the works of C. S. Lewis.

**Jen Lopdrup** will be investigating classical education, looking at its different models, strengths and weaknesses, and its potential impact on society.

**Katy Storrs** will be researching the role of women in Italian Renaissance art.

**Austin Huggins** will be delving into the role of liturgy in the church.

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