



THE COURIER

THE GENEVA
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 21, 2006

April/May 2006

Apr 24 - 28: Standardized Testing (Grades 1 - 8)

Apr 26 - 30: Rhetoric Trip to New York

Apr 28: Progress Reports Sent Home
(Grades 3 - 6)

May 1 - 5: Fifth Grade Trip to Williamsburg

May 5: Sports Banquet (see page 4)

May 9: Concert (see page 3)

May 9 - 12: Sixth Grade Camping Trip

May 13: Spring Dance (Grades 9 - 12)

May 16: Concert (see page 3)

May 21: Baccalaureate Service at First United
Methodist Church, Winter Park, at 4:00 pm

May 24: Early Dismissal (Grades 7 - 12)

May 25: Semester Exams & Early Dismissal
(Grades 7 - 12)

May 26: Semester Exams (Grades 7 - 12)
Last Day of School & Early Dismissal
(All Grades)

Graduation Ceremony - First United Methodist
Church, Winter Park, at 2:00 pm

May 29: Memorial Day

May 30 - June 2: Teacher Post-Planning

June 2: Report Cards Sent Home

Moms in Touch

Led by Julie Tressler, a group of dedicated moms meets every Monday at 8:15 a.m. for approximately one hour to pray for The Geneva School students, parents, teachers, staff and Board. Come as you are to the office at Cascades (across the street from the School) after you drop off your children.

The Geneva School

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Outward and Visible Signs: A Tribute to the Kings

by Michael Eatmon

Give little boys their capes, masks, and swords, and watch an old rite in wonder. Hand tiaras and orbs to their sisters of four, then behold a deep magic of splendor. In short order and happily, nature will take its course, a mystery will show itself straightforward. Heroes



will emerge where stood timid lads, and lasses will ascend to princesses. Buried deep in the soil of every child's soul lies a seed of aspiration God planted. As the germ grows, it will root, shoot, and branch into the foliage of a magnificent tree—a tree through whose trunk ever courses a sap that cries, "Rather than *seem*, 'tis better to *be*."



Toward the virtues of good, and true, and beautiful we strive, and toward the God whose being defines them, longing also to wear the cope and the crown of the wise, the just, the measured, the strong, the panoply of souls well suited. Atop these

seven we desire by grace to put on a spiritual three: childlike faith, undying hope, and—the greatest of these—charity. Nay, even more than the greatest of these, we aspire not to *seem*, but *be*.

Through much of our lives we don and doff these, and other virtues and ideals beside them: kindness, forbearance, and meekness alike, so too joy, and patience, and peace. But whether in youth or age, a child or sage, we pray never to *seem*, but *be*. And God has seen fit in this community here, in our Geneva School here these years, to give us a hero, a princess, two seeds, and two Kings—two trees, Dale and Carlene, whose blossoms display in effulgent glory the truth of the saying, the hope of that seed, "Rather than *seem*, 'tis better to *be*."

After ten years of diligent service to The Geneva School, Dale and Carlene King are retiring. We will miss them both tremendously.

Geneva Student Accepted to Study at Baylor University Summer Science Program

As the end of May draws ever closer and the countdown to the end of the school year begins, most students are looking forward to those lazy days of summer - ten weeks of no school (and no homework), summer camps, and family vacations. However, one Geneva student is looking forward to the end of May for a completely different reason: he is preparing himself for a month of study at Baylor University. Craig White, who has been at Geneva since first grade, will be traveling to Waco, Texas, to participate in Baylor University's High School



Summer Science Research Program. Craig is one of ten high-school juniors picked from applicants all over the US to spend five weeks working side-by-side with a faculty member on active research projects.

The purpose of the High School Summer Science Research Program (HSSSRP), an annual program established in 1991, is to give superior high-school students hands-on research experience by working on research projects with Baylor University science professors in many disciplines. The fellowship program occurs during the University's first session of summer school and is open to students between their junior and senior year of high school.

Students are selected each year from high schools throughout the United States to be involved in this summer research program, which also allows them to earn one semester hour of college credit. It is hoped that this experience will have a positive effect on student interest in careers in science disciplines. Many former participants, called "Fellows", have successfully entered challenging undergraduate programs throughout the nation.

The HSSSRP offers students an excellent opportunity to experience Baylor, as they begin to consider which college they want to attend.

Craig came across the Baylor program after researching scholarship summer programs on the internet. The Baylor program was the most desirable, because it offers the chance to do genuine research with an existing project and because it provides free of charge tuition, lab fees, and a dorm room for the five-week program.

Craig credits his Geneva first-grade teacher with sparking his interest in science, particularly in biology. His teacher had the class make flash cards of the seventeen species of penguins. Those flash cards first revealed to Craig the wonder of God's creation. A group of animals that eventually came to captivate his attention was bats. During his time at Baylor, Craig will be working alongside Professor Kenneth Wilkins, whose current research projects include the roosting ecology of bats in urban settings. In Craig's opinion, bats are among the most misunderstood forms of wildlife and are maligned because most people associate bats with blood-sucking vampires. The three species of vampire bats have given the other thousand of the genus a bad name. The fact is that bats are becoming increasingly important in epidemiological research, especially as more diseases are mutating.

After spending eleven years at The Geneva School, Craig believes his education has prepared him to step into a new setting. He understands that God has given him a unique opportunity and he is determined to make the most of it.

VIVA la MUSICA!



May 9, 6:30 pm

*The Consort Philharmonia,
The Geneva Rhetoric Choir &
The Eighth-Grade Class*

Listen to the future, as the young artists of The Consort Philharmonia present a variety of folk music from Israel, France, and America.

The Geneva Rhetoric Choir has blossomed into a highly prized ensemble, known for its beautiful, expressive interpretation. On this, their final program of the school year, the choir will perform a bouquet of works by Handel, Mozart, Copland, Lauridsen, Rutter, Miller, and Singh.

May 16, 6:30 pm

*The Grammar School Choirs &
The Consort Repertory Orchestra*

Experience the cherubic sounds of our Grammar School choirs, as they share music by Handel, Gilpin, Bennighof, Britten, Thiman, and American and Hebrew folk melodies.

The Consort Repertory Orchestra will "go for Baroque" as they perform Handel's exquisite aria *Ombra mai fu* with soprano Corrine Hunter, Marcello's Sonata in E Minor, and Vivaldi's thrilling Concerto in A Minor for two Violins, featuring violinists Linda Van Buren and Olga Feroni.

Both programs will be held in the sanctuary of
The First Presbyterian Church of Maitland,
341 N. Orlando Avenue

Presented by The Geneva School of Winter Park, Florida

Geneva u-Knighted: Uniting New Families to Geneva

Can you remember how it feels to be in a new place, new school, new church, or new community? If so, you may be able to remember exactly who your first friend was.

As winter becomes spring, the admissions staff has been busy processing applications for new students and planning ways to incorporate them into the Geneva community. We want to make sure that there is a veteran Geneva family ready to befriend each incoming family, as was begun in last year's Family-to-Family program.

The program is being expanded this year as Geneva u-Knighted. We want you to know about it, because you may be one of the families asked to assist a new Knight family.

Who will be involved? Incoming families will be matched with veteran Geneva families according to grade, interest, and/or geographic proximity. Please understand that there are not as many families entering the school as returning; therefore, not all current families will be able to participate. We will be approaching current families in early May to ask for their involvement.

What will we do? Current families who participate in Geneva u-Knighted will be asked to call and wel-

come the new family, get together with them over the summer, and follow up with them during the first weeks of school.

Why will we do it? This is a wonderful opportunity to practice the biblical virtue of hospitality, not to mention the golden rule! Our students will have a chance to see for themselves the difference they can make in another person's life by reaching out to Geneva's newcomers. We hope that next year these new families will be eager to serve as veterans in Geneva u-Knighted, because of the kindness they themselves were shown in their first days at Geneva.

Save the dates for two special events:

Geneva u-Knighted Ice Cream Social - Thursday, June 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Geneva. This event is for all new families and the veteran families with whom they have been paired. Other Geneva families are also welcome to attend. Please contact Nicole Incinelli to RSVP (nkinellini@genevaschool.org or 407-332-6363, ext. 201).

Picnic in the Park - Friday, August 11, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (following Meet-the-Teacher). Everyone is invited to take their lunch to Maitland Park for fun and games.

Seventh Annual Geneva School Sports Banquet

**Friday, May 5
6:00 p.m. in the Gym**

Students who participated in Middle School, Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity teams will be honored.

The above athletes, coaches, and their families are invited.

7th grade - adult: \$10 (\$12 after April 28) ~ K - 6th grade: \$5 (\$7 after April 28)

Free for children under age 5

Middle School/JH/JV/Varsity Coaches and athletes: \$5 (\$7 after April 28)

All athletes must be accompanied by a parent or a designated adult.

Dress Code: Smart Casual

RSVP: Nicole Incinelli, 407-332-6363 ~ Food will be provided by JR's Barbeque

Flight for Education, April 6 - 8

by Becky Martinez

The Flight for Education is now an annual opportunity for of friends of The Geneva School to experience a high-level briefing by thought leaders in the context of one of America's great cities. Last year in Washington, DC, and this year in New York City, a group of more than 40 gathered to understand the critical issues facing our nation and faith.



What a wonderful change of pace! We recently had the opportunity to gather with fellow believers in a great American city, seeking to better understand God's eternal truths as they are revealed in our economic system, our culture, and our Christian faith. These truths are old--they do not change, but, in God's ample economy, they can be explained, enjoyed, and experienced afresh creatively for our insight and pleasure.

We had the chance to hear distinguished leaders from many walks of life, some of whom speak forth daily from our televisions, newspapers, coffee table magazines, or iPods; others of whom we had never heard but will now never forget. The Geneva School's Flight for Education was one of the most memorable and encouraging briefings my husband and I have ever attended.

How do we as Christians interpret and affect modern culture? For many of us, the culture is intimidating and confusing, often easy to reject as worldly and immoral. On the other hand, I fear many of us, especially myself, unconsciously find many of its elements so attractive that they draw us in, transforming us to where we often become indistinguishable from the world we pretend to eschew (am I an Über-Mom?). With the astute observations of our speakers, we were able to craft a roadmap for understanding, navigating, and renewing 21st-century American culture from the context of our faith. Rev. Tim Keller, of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (NYC), called

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Geneva Students enter 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program

Last October Geneva's eleventh-grade students (as well as many ninth and tenth graders) took the PSAT/NMSQT. This test is not only preparation for the SAT, but is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, a program co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

We recently learned that four of Geneva's eleventh graders - almost one-third of the class - have met the requirements to enter the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants of some 1.4 million program entrants.

Congratulations to (left to right) Craig White, Andrew Yates, Foster Lerner, and Kirsten Peterson!



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Flight for Education continued....

us to love and tend to our sisters and brothers in the city in the way that a gardener cultivates his garden, with a view to helping it flourish. We need not fear losing our Christian identity, if we become a counter-culture for the common good, using our resources, strengths, and influence in a different way.

With regard to understanding compassionate conservatism, Marvin Olasky, of *World Magazine*, reminded us of President Bush's true statement, that "Government can spend money but can't put a sense of purpose in our lives," yet also encouraged us to ponder the common good in a way that reaches beyond politics and religious differences, combining the important goals of evangelism and poverty-fighting.

On the topic of "Culture and Wealth," New York Times journalist David Brooks developed the idea that although avenues for success in our society are more fair and open to all people today than ever before, differences in education and human capital are widening the gap between those who will likely succeed and those who will not. In other words, as society becomes more fair it becomes less fair. Bloodlines matter less these days, but the parents a child is born to matter greatly.

Our time was dotted with delightful interludes, including spectacular jazz tunes and commentary from the talented and brilliant Dr. Bill Edgar, Professor of Apologetics at Westminster Seminary. We also enjoyed views of the Statue of Liberty from our rooms; a tour of Fox News studios and conversation with CEO Roger Ailes; and the Broadway musical *Tarzan* (we laughed as we heard the song "Two Worlds, One Family," sure as we could be that we were still two families even though we do have two eyes and two hands just like gorillas...sayin' don't make it so!). Our final night took us to the Union League Club, where, accompanied by Bill Edgar's music, we enjoyed dinner in a gorgeous two-story dark wood-paneled

library. Fred Barnes, a Fox News commentator and Editor of *The Weekly Standard*, patiently signed his book *Rebel in Chief* for each of us, proving to be not only a gracious and engaging person and an able keynote speaker, but also a thoughtful Christian, another encouragement to us all to see one of our own prominently engaged in the culture.

On the topic of politics, our engaging emcee, Michael Cromartie, Director of the Ethics and Public Policy Institute in DC, warned that we must not over-politicize ourselves to the point where we are no heavenly good. "The dead are not raised by politics!" He reminded us that we can love our political enemies and relax in God's sovereignty. If we can be winsome in our relationships with opponents, we will stand a much better chance of having meaningful dialogue with them.

Gordon Pennington, former marketing guru for Tommy Hilfiger, gave us valuable insight into modern culture, having his finger on the pulse of this issue and spilling the good news and bad news about it to all of us. One of his memorable comments, made while giving his testimony, was that "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." Our faith in Christ is the only message of hope in our increasingly tragic and sound-bite driven era, an era dominated by a pop culture that isolates us from ourselves and one another.

Thank you, Geneva School, for affording us the time and resources to better understand our culture and our role in it. May we all be better stewards of God's garden as a result of what we learned and experienced in New York City.

Becky Martinez is married to Ralph and has three children (two in college, and one in high school). She is a long-time friend and supporter of The Geneva School and its vision for education.