



THE COURIER

THE GENEVA
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 23, 2007

Charlie's Starry Night

by Dale Wayne

I am looking at Charlie Classe's version of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. The swirl of stars tumbles in purple and green onto a curved horizon. Yellow crayon resists green watercolor, making the hills look like they are reaching for the stars. The moon and planets, encircled by bright yellow rays, blink across the night. The heavens are set in motion by curves of pink crayon peeking through a turquoise sky. When I look at stars, I am reminded of our creator God who "made the stars also." I picture God the Father with a handful of glitter, casting stars through the heavens for signs and seasons, and for beauty.

We worship a God who, in His love for us, made us in His image. We are created to be creative. When I walk through the halls of The Geneva School, I can feel the creative energy flowing out of classroom doorways, bubbling in hallway conversations, and floating in a noontime blessing sung before lunch.

Charlie's cloud-like cascade of stars tumbles like a waterfall onto the horizon. I wonder if she remem-



bers that Van Gogh liked to make water look like land and land look like water. A large brown cypress tree, a symbol of death, pierces her green and purple scribbles. Charlie has filled the triangular negative space formed by the tree and cloud, with a rainbow. I love rainbows. When teaching art, there are times when it seems God reaches in and reveals something that had never occurred to me. Once, we were studying Noah's ark in the second grade. I was explaining with excitement something I did not understand until I was an adult: "Did you know that the ark is a symbol of salvation through Christ? The ark cradled Noah

Continued on page 2

Moms in Touch

Led by Julie Tressler and Karin Johnson, 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 office at Cascades (across the street from the School) after you drop off your children.

The Geneva School

2025 State Road 436
Winter Park, FL 32792
407-332-6363
407-332-1664 (Fax)
www.genevaschool.org

March/April 2007

Mar 23: Report cards sent home

Mar 23 & 24: *How I Got that Part* performed by the Merely Players (7:00 pm on Fri & Sat and 2:30 pm on Sat)

Mar 29: Candid black & white photographs taken

Apr 6: No School ~ Good Friday

Apr 9 - 13: Fifth-grade trip to Williamsburg

Apr 13 & 14: *Arsenic and Old Lace* performed by the Rhetoric Geneva Players; 7:00 pm

Apr 16: Prospective Parent Open House; 7:00 pm (optional tours at 6:30 pm)

Apr 23 - 27: ERB & SAT testing for 1st - 8th grade students

Continued from page 1

and his family saving them from destruction in the same way Jesus rescues us from sin and death."

"Jesus is the 'what' of the world?" I solicit, and get a variety of answers and land on the one I am after: "Yes, He is the Light of the world." Even though it is probably a bit over their heads, we talk about white light. "When you put a prism up to a light, or if sunlight shines through a crystal in a chandelier, what do you see?" "A rainbow!" someone will invariably exclaim, and somehow God's symbol for His promise not to destroy the earth again by flood becomes potent with meaning. Jesus is all the colors. They are a picture of Him. We see it again in the story of Joseph. His coat, like the cloak of righteousness we are wrapped in, is multicolored. Our coat is so full of color it is white.

The first-grade children learn that Van Gogh repeats the shape of the looming cypress with the steeple and church in the little town beneath the stars. The actual scene he was painting did not have a church. He added it by his own invention. When Charlie was finishing up her painting, she left an unpainted section underneath the village. The stark white is interrupted by black crayon dashes that look like quotation marks. Will Colclasure, our art assistant, suggested, "Don't you want to color the ground underneath the church?" "No" Charlie responded. "It's in the clouds." As I look at it I think of the New Jerusalem, descending from the clouds, where the streets are of gold, the color of clear glass, its foundation made of every color of stone imaginable, and whose light is the Light of the World.

Eighth-Grade Class "U-Knight" to Fight Cystic Fibrosis

Meet Alex Boyd! As an eighth grader, Alex has been a Geneva Knight since first grade. He looks just like any other teen in our hallways, smiles a lot, studies hard, and participates in sports. However, since birth, Alex has fought a daily battle unique to our other students, a battle with cystic fibrosis. Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a chronic genetic disease causing mucous secretions in the body to be thicker and stickier directly affecting the respiratory, pancreatic, and gastrointestinal systems.

Walk a day in Alex's shoes. Each morning before school, he puts on his vibrating vest for 30 minutes, a treatment to loosen the sticky secretions and encourage coughing to clear his lungs. He takes inhaled medications to help maximize his airways.

Before any meal or snack he swallows capsules containing pancreatic enzymes that help him to break down and absorb food from his digestive tract. After a full day of school, sports practice, and homework, he again dons the vibrating vest and inhales medications to help clear his lungs before bed. Being especially susceptible to respiratory and sinus infections, any sign of a cold is rigorously treated with addition-

al nebulizer and antibiotic treatments.

This year Alex's 8th-grade classmates are "u-knighting" with him to help fight the battle against CF. They are forming a team, led by their Life Management teacher, Coach Hollie Bates, to walk at the national CF Foundation fundraiser, "GREAT STRIDES: Taking Steps to Cure Cystic Fibrosis." The walk will take place on Saturday, April 28, at the Sanford Riverwalk. This walk raises money for research to develop medicines and therapies that improve the quality and health of CF patients and make progress toward finding a cure.



There are two ways you can join the battle! First, you can make a tax-deductible contribution to the Geneva Knights team online. Visit www.cff.org/great_strides and under "Find a Walker," enter "Hollie Bates, FL," to access the team's donation page. Also, the week before the walk, the eighth graders will be collecting donations from students at school. We encourage the Geneva community to "u-knight" with the 8th-grade team, on behalf of Alex Boyd, to fight CF.

On the Shoulders of Giants

adapted from a talk given by Ravi Jain at the Celebration of Learning

It will not surprise anyone to know that Geneva offers calculus and physics to its rhetoric students. However, what you may not know is that math and physics is taught as a combined integrated course for juniors and seniors. These classes, taught by Ravi Jain, are not dry textbook explanations, but instead the vibrant intellectual history of great ideas. In the eleventh grade the combined class is called The Scientific Revolution, and the students focus on the 17th-century thinkers who laid the foundation for modernity, contemporary math, and science. During this class, in addition to their regular math and physics problems, the students read actual texts from Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Pascal, and Descartes. Exposure to these primary sources allows the students to truly understand the process of discovery and invention. The students don't need to ask, "How in the world did anyone come up with this?" Instead they can see how each scientist, mathematician, and philosopher built on his predecessors' work. They can see why Isaac Newton said "that if I have seen further than others it is because I am standing on the shoulders of giants," a reference to Galileo. They witness why Newton had to invent calculus in order to solve the problems posed by his amazing new laws of gravitation and mechanics. They don't learn a mishmash of ideas with no relevance, but an interconnected web of science, math, history, and faith. All of these thinkers espoused a personal belief in Christianity. Starkly opposite to what secular society would have us think, Christian faith was the cradle, not the enemy, of science. Studying these men in their context allows the students to rediscover their sense of wonder at God's handiwork in the physical universe and to follow their model of faith, reason, and science working

together. And as the class does that, they hope to recover the beautiful textures of truth in the universe, not dependent on autonomous man's reason as modernism would claim, but truth dependent on the living God.

The senior class is called Relativity, Reason, and Relativism. This class continues where The Scientific Revolution leaves off and brings the students through the 20th century. In this class they strive to understand Space-Time Relativity, Quantum Physics, and science and math's influence in our culture's post-modern move towards relativism. To do this they study diverse thinkers like the pious Scottish Presbyterian James Clerk Maxwell, whom Einstein considered the greatest physicist since Newton. The students master Maxwell's equations to prove that the speed of light is constant. To do this they need to combine advanced physics with elements of Calculus III - a subject not normally learned until the sophomore year of college. But when they master these equations their payoff is rich. These are the very equations that inspired Einstein to develop his theory of relativity. This class requires great technical acumen in math and physics - much beyond a normal AP curriculum. Yet the students perform brilliantly. In May, Geneva's seniors will take the AP Calculus BC and the AP



At the Celebration of Learning on March 3 the Scientific Revolution class demonstrated Pascal's discovery of a vacuum when a column of liquid is raised over 32 feet.

Physics tests, as they have done quite successfully for the past three years. But those AP tests are not Geneva's chief goal. Instead it aims to recognize its dependence on God for all truth in the realms of science, math, and philosophy. And it does this by diligently cultivating its inductive, deductive, and poetic faculties to recognize truth both in Scripture and in the general revelation of the physical world.



Home coming: Q&A With New Campus Project Manager

Sarah Cloke interviews Mark Meyer, project director for CNL Real Estate & Development, the Team in charge of overseeing development of the new Geneva School campus.

What exactly are your responsibilities?

CNL Real Estate & Development (CRED) will be active in all aspects of this project ... that includes everything from land transactions, architect/engineers and contractor selection, planning, design, engineering, permitting, as well as construction. This is a big step for The Geneva School and we'll be with you through the entire process, including move-in. We'll also be around after move-in while facility management staff is being trained.

Who is CNL and what experience is there with this kind of project?

CNL is one of the nation's largest privately held real estate investment and development companies. Since its inception in 1973, CNL has formed or acquired companies with more than \$19 billion in assets, including hotel, retail, restaurant, seniors' housing, lifestyle properties and master-planned communities. We developed two award-winning corporate office towers adjacent to Orlando's City Hall and the Moss Park community in southeast Orlando. Personally project development has been my focus for nearly 26 years. My education includes a bachelor's degree in construction engineering and a master's degree in construction management from the University of Florida. For the past 15 years my main focus has been large-tract master-planned communities and corporate headquarter development.

Have you personally worked on any similar projects we might recognize?

I served as the senior project manager for the master-planned development of Wycliffe Bible Translators' and Campus Crusade for Christ's Orlando headquarters as well as First Baptist Church of Orlando.

Mark, I know you are a strong Christian - how does this influence and affect how you work?

Many years ago, along with two brothers, I owned a construction and development business. One of our project managers invited us to a seminar entitled "Business by the Book," which turned out to be business by THE BOOK. My oldest brother and I accepted Christ during this time and began the journey of understanding who we are as Christians and how God has created each of us with unique gifts and talents to use for His glory. During graduate school, God was motivating me to do more than just project development. Jesus' parable of the talents became the theme of my graduate studies and helped prepare me to be part of something more eternally significant. God has been faithful to open doors for "kingdom work." It is a privilege and honor to work with The Geneva School.

Let's talk more about Geneva's project - what sort of timeline do you anticipate?

Working with the Geneva Board of Governors, we have already selected an architect (SchenkelShultz) and a building contractor (Williams Company). Presently, your development Team is gathering information and studying designs whereby the school's philosophy, culture and learning environments are translated into facilities and recreational amenities complimenting the new campus. Concurrently, we are working through the "due diligence" process ... that is to say we are gathering detailed information from the current landowner and working with the City of Casselberry/Seminole County, to make sure Geneva has clear title to the land, an understanding of required approvals, permits and other related land development matters. By September, we should be ready to begin site work - which will include preparation of the entire site for Phase I and future Phases. We anticipate building construction to start by November 2007, which would put us on schedule for Phase I completion in January 2009.

That is a lot to do in 23 months - how much buffer time is in the schedule?

We know the end date is fixed. Our plan is to complete Phase I and be open for students when they

return from Christmas break in January 2009. Lord willing, we will make that date.

What are some of the specific due diligence activities related to this property?

The Geneva School property is part of a large mixed-use master-planned community. Currently, there are single family homes and town homes occupied and/or being constructed on adjacent Centex property. The storm water drainage master plan has already been approved and Seminola Boulevard/East Lake Drive road construction has been approved and is underway. When Phase I opens, there will be a four-lane divided highway from 17/92 to Tuscawilla Road. Also, there will be a traffic signal at the intersection entry leading into the new campus.

We are working with various Geneva School committees, preparing preliminary cost analyses and schedules, which will become part of their management tools, long-range planning for facility management and support for fund-raising efforts.

What is the proposed closing date for the property?

We anticipate closing on the new property as soon as possible. This will be predicated on how quickly the City of Casselberry provides the necessary entitlements and approvals. The purchase and sale agreement includes language allowing for time extensions.

What are the plans for the commercial and residential tract of land south of our property?

Adjacent to The Geneva School site is a 16-acre commercial/residential tract and another residential tract being developed by Centex Homes. Currently, we are studying these properties to determine their highest and best uses. These tracts are the "front doors" to The Geneva School and need to be planned in a way that compliments the new campus.

Can we talk now about the development phases of the property - what are we planning for now and in the future?

Phase I of this project will receive nearly 800 students in facilities totaling approximately 110,000 square feet with a variety of uses including administration, library, classrooms, dining hall, gymnasium, and locker rooms. The recreational amenities include a football/soccer stadium with a running track, baseball fields, softball fields, and other athletic facilities. As

we consider Phase I we also need to consider future uses and expansions, and we have to do that efficiently. We like to use the term "best practice." Under that umbrella we evaluate the life cycle costs of construction materials; the most energy-efficient mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; and the best materials for floors, walls, and ceilings. We plan for 20 years, but focus on Phase I so that it all knits together very well.

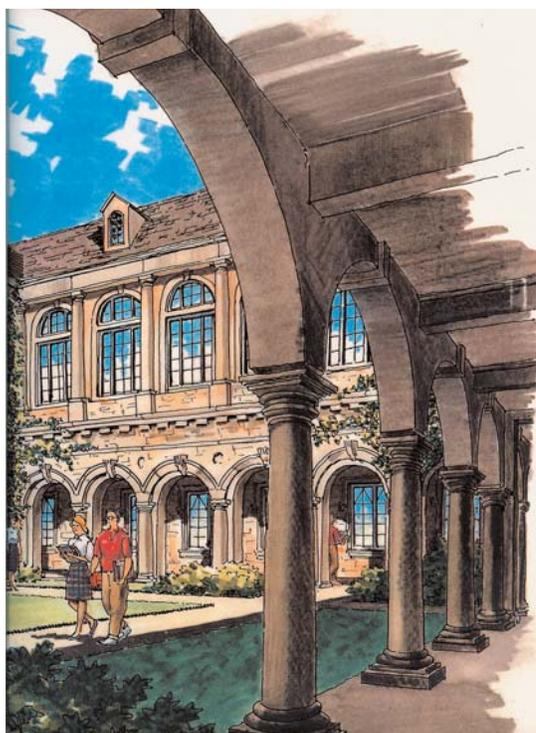
How many students are we thinking Geneva will have in 20 years' time?

We understand the ultimate student enrollment objective is about 1200 students. Our planning activities will consider the core facilities, classrooms and athletic amenities for that capacity.

Thank you, Mark.

Mark and the team at CNL have been faithful friends of The Geneva School since 2000. He served as senior project manager for our current facility. As we embark on this project, we are truly thankful to have him working with us again.

God has been very good to The Geneva School and we are excited about the future. We anticipate that over the next two years and beyond we will see God at work in ways we never thought possible. Please pray with us that He will be glorified in and through this project and that we will be good stewards of all that He has blessed us with.



Grammar School Basketball

One of the things that characterizes Geneva's grammar school basketball program is that it is all about learning the basics, playing on a team with friends, and having fun. That is exactly what happened during this past season.

Coached totally by parent volunteers, Geneva had 12 teams participating in two leagues. Our youngest athletes competed in a league with teams from Geneva and The First Academy, and our older grammar school students competed in the Association of Christian Youth Sports (ACYS) basketball league. These older students played against schools that they will meet again when they play middle school, JV, and varsity basketball.

Focusing on the basics certainly paid off for three of our girls' teams!

Geneva's two fourth-grade girls' teams finished first and second in the regular season. As predicted, they met each other in the tournament final on Wednesday, March 7. It was a very exciting game with both teams playing great defensive basketball. Coaches John Riley and Scott Wheeler were very proud of their girls who show great potential. Speaking of his team, John Riley commented that, "It was such a joy to coach them and see their self-confidence skyrocket." This was Scott Wheeler's first season of coaching at The Geneva School, and he found the experience to be both gratifying and spiritually fulfilling. His team of young women truly possessed positive attitudes, tremendous spir-



it, and a great sense of sportsmanship. He added that he had received much more than he had given. Congratulations to both teams: Brooke, Emily, Karenna, Jacquelin, Noel, Moira, Mia, Catherine, and Elizabeth & Madison, Hannah, Savannah, Ashton, Natalie, Katlynn, Anna, and Kaitlyn.

In early December 2006, ten athletic and energetic Geneva fifth- and sixth-grade girls started practicing basketball drills for what would become a very memorable season. Coached by Richard Goble, each girl made no less than 2000 baskets in practice and ran aggressive and very physical defensive drills. They remarkably defeated every team in the ACYS league and represented true Christian sportsmanship, which will not soon be forgotten. The tournament was hard fought, but the girls never wavered in their Christian sportsmanship and persevered to defeat some of the best teams in the Orlando area, including The First Academy in the championship game. Congratulations to Amanda, Brianna, Meredith, Jayme, Shannon, Abigail, Sarah, Sara, Kendall, and Hannah for a great championship season.

Many thanks go to all our coaches and their assistants: James Bruce, Chris Buxton, Jeff Dickinson, Richard Goble, Glenn Gunter, Linda Gunter, Martin Hering (two teams), Tom Lower, Eric Pederson, John Riley, Dave Robinson, Mimi Sonnie, Tom Sonnie, Clay Thompson, and Scott Wheeler.



Top: John Riley's Winning Fourth-Grade Team
Center: Scott Wheeler's Second Place Fourth-Grade Team
Bottom: Richard Goble's Winning Fifth & Sixth-Grade Team



Development News

An Evening with the Bard: We are so very grateful to everyone who supported Geneva's 13th annual auction gala last month: for those who donated items, those who donated their time and talents, and those who came to the event.

After all the bills were paid the net amount raised from the auction was \$167,000!

What are you looking for? ~ What are your children looking for?
What is our culture looking for?

You are cordially invited to attend

COME & SEE

April 28 - 29
Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes

**COME
& SEE**

We will begin on Saturday at noon for a luncheon and conclude Sunday morning with a worship service and brunch. (Registration fee of \$250 per person covers the cost of the program with meals and lodging underwritten by the host committee.)

Charles W. Colson, William Edgar, Dr. John Lennox, and Dr. Sanford C. Shugart will be speaking.

For more information refer to your invitation or visit the school website (Development page).

Attention all patrons of the arts!!!

In April the Rhetoric Geneva Players will perform

Arsenic and Old Lace

Joseph Kesselring's classic comedy of the sweet and kindly murderous spinsters, Abby and Martha Brewster.

This play first opened June 17th, 1944, to audiences at the Fulton Theatre on Broadway in New York City. Ever since then it has been one of the most beloved comedies in American Theatre. Come out and enjoy this classic.

Performances

Friday, April 13th and Saturday, April 14th, at 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall at Aloma Methodist Church

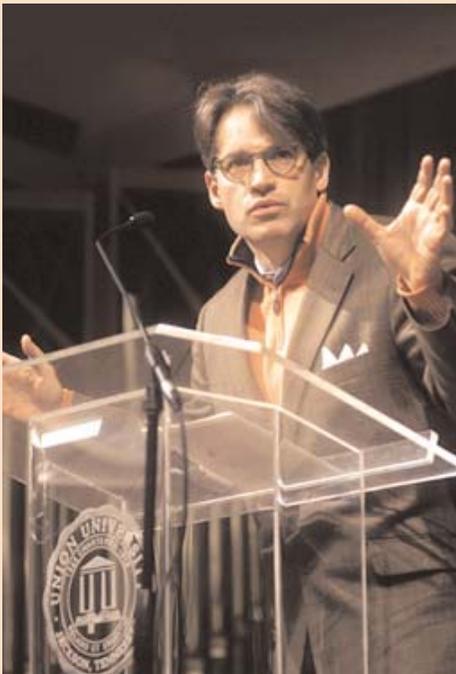
Tickets: \$10

The Geneva School

2025 State Road 436

Winter Park, FL 32792

www.genevaschool.org



AMAZING GRACE

Eric Metaxas, author of the official companion book to the feature film *Amazing Grace*, will talk to Geneva's dialectic and rhetoric students on Thursday, April 5, from 1:45 - 2:45 pm in the gym. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Signed copies of the Eric's book will be on sale for \$20.

"Well educated and well read, Eric is a deep thinker who is also articulate and genuinely interested in the lives and ideas of others, and in the issues swirling around public life today. From writing scripts, reviews, and books, to interviewing, to public speaking, to doing hilarious comic acts, Eric is supremely gifted, irrepressibly creative, and astonishingly versatile."

Dr. Os Guinness, Senior Fellow, The Trinity Forum

