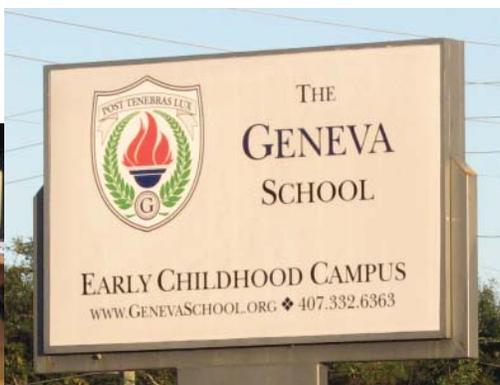




THE COURIER

THE GENEVA
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 11, 2008

Early Childhood Campus



Geneva's Early Childhood Campus opened its doors on Monday, January 7, 2008. After finally receiving the go ahead to begin modifi-



cations to the building on December 10, the construction teams, along with many volunteers, worked hard before and after Christmas to make the campus beautiful for our youngest students.

Thank you to all those who helped paint, strip and varnish floors, landscape, pack, move, and unpack.



7540 Grand Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32792
407-657-0259

From the Desk of the Dean of Students

by Dr. Edward Chandler

When I was driving to school with my children recently, one of my sons asked me, “Daddy, when you drive your car, do you just have to trust everyone else driving cars?” I must confess that I had not given that particular reality much thought, but I had to acknowledge that it is true: every time I venture out onto the streets or highways, I am implicitly trusting every driver whom I pass not to do anything to endanger or injure me or my family. Only once in my driving experience has that trust been violated, but of course, as with most accidents, the mistake was inadvertent. The teenager who turned in front of me that day was manifestly not seeking to injure or to be injured (which, thankfully, he was not).

But what is it that merits our trust when we drive public roads? It is a trait that oftentimes yields untrustworthy behavior in other contexts: self-interest. When I drive my car down Semoran Blvd., the other drivers know that they can trust not me, but rather my self-interest, my concern for self-preservation. Of course, self-interest here is not necessarily a synonym for self-centeredness, though it can become so in our baser moments. A mundane example of self-centeredness that I routinely see (and sometimes exemplify) while driving is many drivers’ tendency to ignore that one car needing to make a right hand turn to get into the flow of rush-hour traffic. In those situations, we often make the decision that the extra five seconds or so is more important than a simple, costless act of kindness. Thank God for the

Christmas season, when even the most cranky and self-centered are sometimes inspired to simple acts of kindness.

The Geneva School observes the traditional church calendar, which, over the course of a year, traces out the life of the resurrected and ascended Lord Jesus. Beginning last Sunday, January 6, we entered the season of Epiphany, during which we celebrate the epiphany, or appearance, of the Savior to the world through the visit of the Magi, who were Gentiles. Of the many significant things about our Lord’s epiphany I will point out just one: that it demonstrates in a wonderful way the unmitigated kindness and absolute unselfishness of Jesus our Lord. For the sake of sinful humanity (who were sinning against him personally), the second person of the blessed Trinity permanently took on flesh and became a servant of servants, so that through Him the whole world might live. Skeptics might say, “But Jesus now receives your worship—surely he was self-interested if what you say about him is true.” But at what cost? The sufferings and shame that Jesus endured on our behalf are incalculable.

St. Matthew in his gospel tells us that the Magi brought three gifts, which acknowledge three truths about who Jesus really is: gold for a king; frankincense for a priest; and myrrh for a suffering and dying servant. As we rejoice in the birth of a Savior and His manifestation to the entire world, let us remember also His wonderful kindness and utter selflessness which took Him unyieldingly to the cross of our salvation.

Alumni News



“There’s no business like show business!” has become the mantra for Geneva alum Katie Fridsma, class of 2003. This spunky brunette graduated from Bryan College this past spring with a degree in Musical Theater and is in the process of pursuing her Masters degree in Fine Arts through the acting program at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. During her time at Bryan, Katie performed in a number of productions—“The Music Man”, “The Fantastics”, and “The King and I”—and also had the opportunity to direct. She loves the program at Regent. She worked on five films during her first semester and really enjoyed working on shows written, directed, and produced completely by students at Regent. Next semester Katie will perform in two musicals.

Katie has always loved singing and acting—many of us at Geneva were blessed to observe this during her time here—and she aspires to live and perform in New York, with an ultimate goal of someday owning her very own theater company. This will involve years of hard work and dedication to succeed, but Katie has always shown a tough persistence and tremendous talent that God will use as she pursues her dreams. We, as her watching public, say to Katie Fridsma, “Bravo! Keep up the great work!”

We're Goin' on a Diamond Hunt...

We're hunting under every bush, in every nook and cranny, in every garage, attic, backyard, safe-deposit box, and closet. We're hunting for wonderful things for the Annual Auction: Geneva's Ultimate Diamond Hunt!

Now that Christmas is over, you should have some more time to devote extra thought and prayer to how you can help make the annual Geneva auction a huge success. Think about taking advantage of the incredible opportunities afforded by the after Christmas sales. Think about donating the third coffee maker Aunt Millie gave you. Do you really need five basketballs? Or a sixth copy of all the James Bond movies? Maybe that store down the street will donate a basket of goodies. Or a gift certificate for a manicure and pedicure. Or maybe Uncle Bob will donate a week at his condo in Aspen!

Your donations—large and small—are greatly appreciated. Large things can be auctioned alone; we can combine smaller items with other treasures for magical results! Donations are due by January 31. Just fill out the donation form available on the school website or pick up a copy at the front desk. Donations can be dropped off at the front desk or at the Cascades Office.

One final reminder...

Corporate and table sponsorship help tremendously to underwrite the general expenses of the auction allowing more of the actual auction proceeds to go directly to support the educational and spiritual growth of the students of Geneva. If you or someone you know would be interested in being a sponsor, please contact Patti Rader at 407-332-6363 or pnrader@genevaschool.org.

Look for your auction invitation in the mail around February 1 and save the date: Geneva's Ultimate Diamond Hunt—March 8, at the Church Street Ballroom!



Need ideas or assistance? Here are some key contacts:

- Cathy Lopdrup: General questions and donation ideas! (407-740-6865, Lopdrup@cfl.rr.com)
- Kelley Jain: General questions, transportation of items (407-657-4108, kajain@genevaschool.org)
- Nancy Wood: Major gifts, i.e. vacation homes, big stuff (407-951-5713, nancynwood@cfl.rr.com)
- Tracee Gmitro: Major gifts (356-747-8240, traceegmitro@yahoo.com)
- Jacque Mellor: Silent auction, i.e. smaller items, gift certificates. (321-438-2963, jbmellor@gmail.com)
- Pattie Fulmer: Mentor Moment donations (407-221-8088, pafulmer@genevaschool.org)
- Maria Francis: Volunteer coordinator—help will be needed on the day at the registration and checkout desks as well as for event setup and break down. (msfrancis@genevaschool.org)

We would love to have more volunteers to help with decorations and a few key “special” projects!

Dramatically Geneva!

by Lisa Hines, Drama Instructor

The queen vainly scrubs at the imaginary blood on her guilty hands as she cries out in pain; a red-headed orphan sings a song of hope for a better future; a group of preteen girls holds a small town in the grip of paranoid fear; a family of oakies heads west in search of a better life; a degenerate gambler sings a song of repentance...the stage has a way of transporting us beyond ourselves. It allows us to experience other lives, other worlds, and makes us look at the world around us with different eyes. Theatre is a culmination of all the arts pulled together to create a one-time experience for the actors as well as the audience. No performance of a play is ever exactly the same as the next. As audience members we are the first and last to witness the events that unfold on stage.



Sixth grade *Alice in Wonderland* play

At Geneva, this unique art form is used in the classrooms to allow the students to experience history, science, and literature in a holistic way across the curriculum. Third graders wear chitons and reenact the Trojan war; second graders take a walk through the Red Sea; kindergarteners get a feel of what life was like on the crowded Mayflower; fourth grade vikings have their classroom ransacked by Gallic invaders. Drama is intricately woven through the curriculum at Geneva to create experiences for students so that they can see history from the unique perspective of the participants. It is this special relationship between theatre and learning that first drew me to this school.

Theatre is not just an activity to be experienced for the few students who like to express themselves. It is ac-

cessible to all the students at Geneva, as it should be. This year, we have added drama as a subject area in grades two through six. The students are now learning basic skills that will enhance their performances. This past semester the students have learned about their voices and their bodies to improve their acting and public speaking skills. Slowly, the theatre program will grow to be more specialized with each age group as they learn to hone their basic skills and find their own personal ways to express themselves both on stage and in the classroom.

Next year drama will be introduced into the curriculum for dialectic students (grades 7 & 8). We already have a strong extra-curricular drama club for students in grades six–eight—the Merely Players—and this past fall, eight Geneva students qualified for the State Thespian Festival. Last year, the first production of the Merely Players, *How I Got That Part*, was performed to full houses. In April, they will perform *30 Reasons Not to Be in a Play* with an even larger cast.



Second grade *Winnie the Pooh* play

The rhetoric drama class (grades 9–12) is also becoming more sharply defined. This year, we have been working on the Neil Simon production *Fools*. Students have learned about acting as a craft. Each student is encouraged to find their own personal method for creating a believable character for performance. The play offers many challenges in line delivery, comic timing, and inner dialogue which have caused the students to grow as performers. They have also had

THE RHETORIC CHOIR'S RUMMAGE SALE!

The proceeds from the sale will benefit the students' trip to Austria.

Saturday, February 16, 7:00am–1:00pm

- Members of the Rhetoric Choir will be working during the morning and afternoon carpool on Thursday, February 14, to collect donated items (bags of clothing, boxes of books, tapes, CDs or DVDs, small appliances, pottery, etc.). Just bring the items with you while you are dropping off or picking up your children and a student will meet you to collect your donation.
- If you have over-sized items (big appliances, TVs, exercise equipment, automobiles, etc.), a large number of items, or if the morning and afternoon carpool are inconvenient, we will be collecting items all day Thursday and Friday. We would be happy to accommodate your schedule!
- If, however, you have a donation that you need for us to pick up, please contact Kevin Clark at kwclark@genevaschool.org (before February 9th), and he will schedule a time to come and collect your donated item(s) on 2/14 or 2/15 (the Thursday or Friday before the sale).
- When packing items for donation, we would ask that if possible you keep like items with like items (e.g., clothing in one bag, and books or videos in their own box) and mark the bag or box clearly with what items it contains.



The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding

Looking Ahead—Preparing for the College Transition

**All 11th & 12th Grade Students and their Parents
Wednesday, January 16, at 7:00pm
Music Room**

CPYU's college transition seminars are for college-bound high school students and their parents and will address the transition from high school to college. This multi-media seminar is engaging, interactive, and challenges teenagers and parents to think deeply about four crucial questions to ask before entering college: (1) Why am I going to college? (2) Who am I? (3) What do I believe? (4) With whom will I surround myself?

Designed to focus on the unique pressures and influences students face in higher education, this seminar, its follow-up plan, and related support materials will help students and parents better understand and prepare to face these pressures and challenges from a distinctively Christian perspective. Hope and encouragement will be offered to participants by challenging and equipping them to respond with solid and practical tools.

We expect that all parents and students in Geneva's 11th and 12th grade will attend this seminar.
For more information about CPYU, visit www.cpyu.org.

Geneva students take awards in the Orlando Sentinel Art Competition

There were a total of 2500 entries for the Orlando Sentinel Art Competition. One grand prize, four merit awards, and 10 honorable mentions were awarded in each of three categories (K/1st, 2nd/3rd, and 4th/5th.)

Here are Geneva's results!

KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE

Merit Award: Lauren Chandler (1)

Honorable Mention: William Lay (K) & Gabriella Adams (1)

SECOND GRADE/THIRD GRADE

Merit Award: Aspen Herzog (3)

Honorable Mention: Allison Dooling (3) & Julia Bryant (2)

FOURTH GRADE/FIFTH GRADE

Honorable Mention: Noel Bright (5) & Stephen Miceli (4)

20 certificates of achievement were also awarded in each category. The following Geneva students received this award:

Gabby Sabatini (K), Kelsey Figler (1), Kristin Hamil (1),
Jack Jarosz (1), Marcus Miceli (1), Kayla Stairs (1),
Sydney Moise (2), Patricia Abely (3), Grace Calhoun (3),
Dane Dunnavan (3), Jimmy Hurley (3), Catherine Deuchler (5),
Karena Robinson (5)



Lauren
Chandler
(below left)



Aspen
Herzog
(above right)

Dialectic and Rhetoric Valentine's Dance Hosted by the Senior Class

*Friday, February 15
8:00–11:00pm in the TGS gym*

*Tickets available January 22
\$10*

the opportunity to work with a faculty and cast member, Brian Polk. *Fools* will be performed at the Orlando Youth Theatre on January 18 and 19 at 7:30pm with a 2:30pm matinee on Saturday. Tickets purchased prior to Thursday the 16th are \$5.00. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$8.00.

As Geneva continues to grow, so will our drama program. Students who have been trained in the basic skills throughout grammar school will make this one of the strongest high school theatre programs in the Orlando area. When we become large enough to support a fine arts facility complete with our own theatre, the program will become even richer as upper school students help to run and direct lower school shows. The rhetoric students will not only perform in their own productions but will gain invaluable skills as they teach the younger students and assist in their performances. We will be able to move into other genres of theatre, using the skills that students have learned in our incredible music program to

produce musicals. Students will be encouraged to take the skills they have learned in our wonderful art program to design sets and costumes. I see no limit to what the theatre program can become in the nurturing creative environment that is unique to our school!



Third grade *Trojan War* play

FOOLS

a comic fable by neil simon



Presented by the
Rhetoric Drama Class
Featuring resident comedian
Brian Polk in a cameo role!

Friday, January 18, at 7:30pm

Saturday, January 19, at

2:30pm & 7:30pm

Orlando Youth Theatre

398 West Amelia Street • Orlando 32801

Order your tickets today! Seating is limited.

Tickets purchased before January 16 are \$5.

Tickets purchased after January 16 are \$8.

Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Ticket order forms are available on the
school website or at the front desk.

This show is suitable for all ages.

Geneva's Elite Runners

by Bill Ledbetter



The word “elite” is an adjective not to be used lightly. It is used to describe the very best. By definition, people who are classed as elite do not come along every day. As Geneva’s cross country coach, I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to coach three elite athletes this year.

The sport of cross country has two elite levels. The first is the State elite level where a female runner must run under 21:00 minutes and a male runner must run under 17:00 minutes for a 5K race. These athletes comprise approximately the top 5–10% of runners across the State of Florida. Geneva had three runners achieve this milestone in their running careers this year: Ellie Dreyer (7th grade), Mollie Jones (9th grade), and Daniel Ludwig (12th grade). The second elite status is U.S. National elite. While a team consists of five runners, these elite runners are the leaders of the pack!

Ellie Dreyer placed 17th at the Regional cross country meet finishing with a time of 20:55. This is remarkable for a seventh grade runner in only her second year of competition and first year of serious training. She finished the season as the 10th ranked 7th grader in the State of Florida. Ellie has a determination that will one day make her the best—very possibly elite U.S. first team status by running under 19:00.

Daniel Ludwig beat his own school record this year with a time of 16:32, only 2 seconds shy of being a Second Team U.S. elite runner. His time gave him the State elite status and enabled him to finish the season ranked 13th overall in Class 1A competition. Daniel finished 5th in the Regional meet and 10th in the State meet to garner All-State honors. He also represented the Class 1A team of All-Stars at the FACA ALL-STAR

meet where he finished in 20th place out of 31 senior runners. His also is a second team All-Central Florida pick as well as first team All-Seminole County runner.

Mollie Jones demolished her own school record this season when she ran a time of 19:17 at the Class 1A Region 2 meet and finished 3rd overall. This time placed Mollie in the U.S. Elite Second team status and only 17 seconds from being in the First Team elite status which is the highest level possible. She won the

District 3 title with a record time of 19:30 on the hilly Mount Dora Bible course. Mollie finished 10th in the State to gain All-State status. She ended the season as the 5th ranked Freshman in the State over all and the 2nd ranked freshman in Class 1A. She was ranked 62nd of all Florida runners. She was the second highest finisher at the State meet of all local runners.

She is a first team All-Central Florida runner and The Seminole County Runner of the Year. Mollie is the first Geneva athlete to gain All-State status and will be a nationally ranked runner soon!

Thanks to all our supporters for a wonderful year.

Our Cross Country teams have a very promising future. The girls’ team will challenge soon for a State Championship!



From the top: Mollie, Ellie, and Daniel

Book Review

The Discarded Image, by C. S. Lewis

Cambridge University Press, 1994

Paperback. ISBN: 0521477352

Reviewed by Kevin Clark

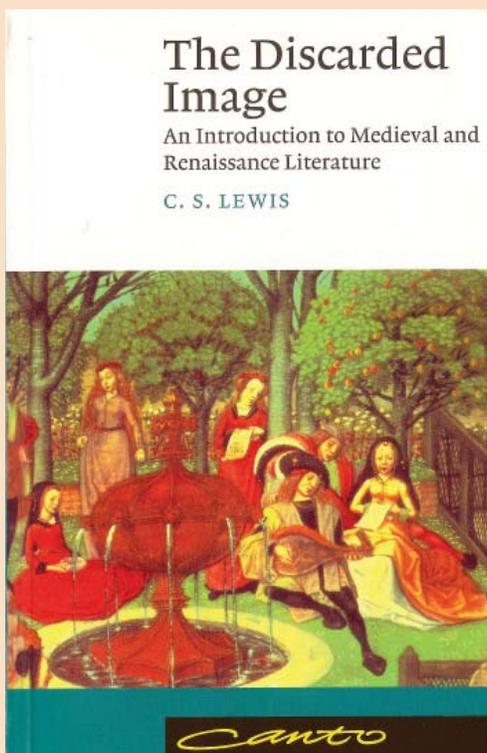


C. S. Lewis's *The Discarded Image* is a book about worldview, but one perhaps like you have never read before. Compiled for publication after years of teaching undergraduate Medieval and Renaissance literature courses at Oxford, the chapters in this book are essentially lectures Lewis delivered to prepare students for the unfamiliar view of the universe that they would meet in authors like Dante, Chaucer, Milton and Shakespeare. Yet, in the course of these lectures, he not only paints a fascinating picture of the characteristic medieval Model of the universe (debunking a good many misconceptions along the way), he identifies the profound impact one's Model of the universe has upon his philosophical, theological, and aesthetic ideas, and vice versa.

Every year the sophomores at Geneva read the first two lectures of this book as a way to appreciate fully (and perhaps existentially) the truly revolutionary character of the Copernican revolution. They are intrigued, for example, when Lewis explains that the medieval man thought "space" was warm and full of light and music, and was, like a great cathedral, of an extremely large though definite size. They are astounded, however, when they find that the Earth's central location in the medieval Model of the universe actually meant for them quite the opposite of what such a position means for us. For to the medieval mind, the only place less significant and glorious than the center of the universe is the center of Earth, Hell—where, you might recall from your reading of *The Divine Comedy*, Dante finds a frozen Satan, motionless and completely inert.

Now the reader might here ask, "Yes, but aren't those actually incorrect ideas about what the universe is really like?" Lewis readily admits that they are, but offers an important caveat with the following illustration. The characteristically medieval explanation for

a falling stone (that the stone has a certain instinctual desire to be at rest on the ground) and the modern explanation of the same phenomenon (that the stone is obeying the law of gravity) are both metaphorical ways of speaking. Which metaphor we use, however, is rather significant. For, he writes, "on the imaginative and emotional level it makes a great difference whether, with the medievals, we project upon the universe our strivings and desires, or with the moderns, our police-system and our traffic regulations" (94). The Model one embraces, it seems, has unexpected consequences—a fact that contemporary historians and philosophers of science have since emphasized.



These are, of course, just a few examples of the fascinating sort of information Lewis has so generously compiled, and I leave it to the reader to mine those depths at his leisure. But as I mentioned above, the overarching value of this book is its insight into the profound and important ways our Model of the universe affects (and is affected by) our other beliefs. As Lewis writes: "We are all, very properly, familiar with the idea that in every age the human mind is deeply influenced by the accepted Model of the universe. But there is two-way traffic: the Model is also influenced by the prevailing temper of mind" (222).

Dates for Your Calendar...

January 14:	Second grade trip to the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach
January 15:	Sixth grade Immigration Day
January 16:	College Transition Seminar—7:00pm in the music room
January 17:	Geography Bee—9:45am in the gym (grades 4–8)
January 18:	Rhetoric drama class play, <i>Fools</i> —7:30pm at the Orlando Youth Theatre
January 19:	Rhetoric drama class play, <i>Fools</i> —2:30 & 7:30pm at the Orlando Youth Theatre Admission Testing—9:00am at TGS
January 21:	Express Re-enrollment begins Student holiday Faculty in-service training day
January 23:	College Financial Aid Night—7:00pm in the music room
January 25:	Rhetoric drama class field trip to Thespian Festival First grade trip to Blue Springs State Park
January 30:	Third grade Greek Olympics and Feast
February 1:	Fifth grade theater trip to see <i>Treasure Island</i> Rhetoric theater trip to see <i>As You Like It</i> Express Re-enrollment ends at 4pm
February 7 & 8:	Fourth grade <i>Beowulf</i> rehearsal at Aloma Methodist
February 8:	Fourth grade play <i>Beowulf</i> at Aloma Methodist—Miss Detrick's cast at 6:30pm & Mrs. Hansen's cast at 7:15pm Pre-K Pet Fair Progress reports sent home

The Geneva School
2025 State Road 436
Winter Park, FL 32792



**Celebrating 15 Years of
Faith & Learning
in Community**