

THE GENEVA SCHOOL Magazine | FALL EDITION 2022

THE COURIER



Inspiring students to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ's calling.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION

The Geneva School seeks to provide students in grades K4–12 an extraordinary education, by means of an integrated curriculum, pedagogy, and culture, both distinctly classical and distinctively Christian, that pursues goodness, truth, and beauty in all spheres of life, while viewing these spheres as elements of a divinely ordered whole. Further, Geneva seeks to instill in students a desire to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ's calling.

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Katie Deatherage (Director)
Anna Classe
Sarah Cloke
Carol Beth Haynes
Allison Hendrix
Kedi Milajecki
Christina Walker

CONTACT

1775 Seminola Boulevard
Casselberry, FL 32707
407-332-6363

geneschool.org



Photographs in this issue taken by Anna Classe, AnnMarie Hamilton, Teresa Medina, wonderful TGS parent volunteers, and photoangel on Freepic.

COVER PHOTO: Anna Classe



- 4** "WHERE IS GOD WHEN . . ."
- 6** WHEN COMMUNITY SHOWS UP
- 7** GETTING TO KNOW . . .
- 13** CELEBRATING THE GENEVA SCHOOL'S THIRTIETH YEAR
- 14** LOWER SCHOOL MURALS
- 16** ON "THE WEIGHT OF GLORY" BY C. S. LEWIS
- 18** BEGINNING WITH THE END
- 20** SALT SERVEATHON
- 24** STORIES: WHERE WE FIND HOPE, BEAUTY, AND LIFE
- 26** A WEEK IN THE LIFE

STAY CONNECTED @GENEVA





HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Geneva School Community:

Shortly after moving to Florida two years ago, I downloaded an app that tells me when a rocket launch is planned from the Kennedy Space Center. If the timing is favorable (for example, *not* at 3:00 am), then my wife, daughter, and I will gather by a second-floor window in our house that faces due east to watch the launch.

The first stage of a launch is the most exciting: seeing the rocket slowly lift at first and then, gaining momentum, push for space. What happens later, such as booster separation or release of payload, occurs beyond our ability to see from our window, so we will often turn to the app for a livestream of these and other events taking place in space.

A parent's experience with a child's educational progression is similar to watching a rocket launch. Parents see the first stage clearly and then, as the journey continues, must rely on other means to verify the progression. When our children go off to college, this includes looking at their grades through a college portal that, according to law, children must give permission for their parents to view. I'm not making this up.

The "rocket fuel" for most educational approaches—but particularly for a Christian classical one—is the ability to read. Just as fuel is loaded into the rocket right before launch, so too is the ability to read essential for a successful educational journey. For this reason, the school developed a reading philosophy statement last year that begins with these words:

At The Geneva School, we believe that learning to read is fundamental to the cognitive and spiritual formation of our students. Our greatest desire is that our students would be able to read God's Word for themselves and allow it into their hearts to transform their lives. We seek to equip our students in every way to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ's calling. Fluent readers are able to enjoy the beauty of a broad spectrum of rich classic literature.

Geneva is committed to teaching our students how to read well while providing them access to beautiful books that foster a love for reading. Developing strong readers is not just a school-related activity. It also requires work in the home. In 2009, PISA, the Programme for International Student Assessment, issued a report titled *What can parents do to help their children succeed in school?* Research showed the following:

- Fifteen-year-old students whose parents often read books with them during their first year of primary school show markedly higher scores in PISA 2009 than students whose parents read with them infrequently or not at all.
- The performance advantage among students whose parents read to them in their early school years is evident regardless of the family's socio-economic background.
- Parents' engagement with their fifteen-year-olds is strongly associated with better performance in PISA.

The report seeks to assure parents that the kind of assistance indicated is not rocket science. The report states that "many parent-child activities that are associated with better reading performance among students involve relatively little time and no specialized knowledge. What these activities do demand, though, is genuine interest and active engagement."

In the pages that follow, you will find articles on interesting topics such as theodicy, C. S. Lewis' great sermon "The Weight of Glory," and Gladys Hunt's book *Honey for a Child's Heart*. You will also find information and images related to our commitment to reading great stories. I hope that this edition of *The Courier* will serve you well as you seek to actively engage in your child's education.

Brad Ryden
Head of School

“Where Is GOD

I write these words on a lovely Friday afternoon—the same week we all experienced a rather tortuous Wednesday and Thursday in late September as Hurricane Ian blew through town. It’s a beautiful day today, but earlier this week, we watched in horror as homes were swept into the surf or water rose and rose into homes bringing damage and destruction. So, naturally, the question rises in our minds, “Where is God when destruction seems to reign unabated?” Where is God when the doctor says, “It’s cancer and it’s serious?”

Seeking to answer such questions falls under the broad category of *theodicy*, which is defined as “a vindication of God’s goodness and justice in the face of the existence of evil.” It’s an age-old problem we all face as people living in a fallen world. We all know that, again and again, life is unjust: the best person too often does not get the job or the credit, the wrong person bears the blame and punishment, sickness and loss come unexpectedly and leave us crying, “Why, O God? How long will this go on?”

The classical construction of the argument goes something like this:

Since evil and suffering exist, either God is good but not sovereign (otherwise he would intervene and right the wrongs), or he is sovereign and does not care (since evil continues to ravage the earth). But the scriptures affirm a *tertium quid*, a third way: God is both good and sovereign. So the real question is, What is God seeking to do with us through the darkness of pain, despair, and loss? This is the essence of the book of Job, which is considered a biblical theodicy seeking to establish that God is righteous and good even in the midst of evil in this life. Marilynne Robinson put it

well in her book *Gilead* when the lead character, John Ames, says, “Strange are the uses of adversity” (*Gilead*, p. 95). Indeed, sadly, adversity, loss, and pain are the ways we seem to learn the most precious lessons. I told our graduating seniors at commencement in May 2022 that in all likelihood, they would learn nothing of lasting value from comfort and pleasure. Rather, the deepest lessons in life come through the hardships.

I have often said that Romans 8:28 is frequently quoted yet little believed by God’s people: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” This reminds us that *all things* work for

good—not for all people, but for those who love God and are called by him as his children.

But let’s be honest: Not all things are good. Heartbreak, loss, disabling conditions, crime, tornados, death—these are all ultimately products of the Fall and sin. Romans 8 also says that the whole creation groans “together with the pains of childbirth” (vs. 22). But our God is a Sovereign who takes our sin

and our brokenness and turns it, in his providential wisdom and timing, into his blessings for his people.

But let’s also be clear: *Sometimes bad things happen, and it just gets worse.* For those who are outside of God’s redemptive promises, bad things can happen and despair leads to hopelessness.

But biblical hope is another reality altogether. The letter to the Hebrews calls *hope* an anchor for the soul. And when the storms of life threaten to break up the

“ So the real question is, What is God seeking to do with us through the darkness of pain, despair, and loss? ”

When . . . ?”

ship, you need an anchor that holds: the promise of redemption—body and soul. When all things are not good in this life, we know that in Christ all things will be perfect in the next.

J. R. R. Tolkien wrote that joy and sorrow are very close to each other. “The Resurrection was the greatest ‘eucatastrophe’ possible in the greatest Fairy Story—and produces that essential emotion: Christian joy which produces tears because it is qualitatively so like sorrow, because it comes from those places where Joy and Sorrow are at one, reconciled, as selfishness and altruism are lost in Love” (*Letters*, p. 100).

In another essay, Tolkien said sorrow “is necessary to the joy of deliverance; it denies (in the face of much evidence, if you will) universal final defeat and in so far is evangelium [Good News!], giving a fleeting glimpse of joy, joy beyond the walls of the world, poignant as grief” (*Tree and Leaf*). And Paul said the same thing two thousand years earlier: saints can live “as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (2 Cor. 6:10). In the lives of Christians, both realities are often experienced at the same time.

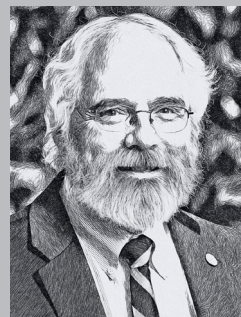
We recently heard from Dr. Wesley Baldwin during our upper school chapel. Speaking about the life of Joseph, he said one of the lessons we learn from Joseph is that we can trust God despite whatever is happening around us, even if those things are bad. We know this is true. “Material things are so vulnerable to the humiliation of decay” (again from Robinson’s *Gilead*, p. 100).

But the good news of the Christian faith is that Jesus came to redeem our suffering through his suffering. And because he died and rose from the dead, we have the hope of a time when there will be no more death or mourning; no more tears or sorrow or pain (Rev. 21:4).

Our friend Joni Eareckson Tada—who survived a diving

accident in 1967 and has lived as a quadriplegic for fifty-five years—famously and wisely says, “Sometimes God uses what he hates to accomplish what he loves.” Linger over that. Let it settle in for a moment. This is a different facet, a new angle, on Romans 8:28. While not all things are good, God is so gracious that he promises to use even our broken lives for much greater purposes such as to make us like Christ and to exalt his glory.

God is creating a great tapestry of which we are a part, even our dark threads. We sometimes have doubts and confusion about this divine tapestry because, even though the Artist knows, sees, and continues to create the intricate design woven on the upper side, we see the tangled lower side with dangling threads and only a faint image of the beauty to come. So we hope in Christ. We cling to the promises of God that nothing is wasted—even our brokenness and sorrow will be used for *good*. So we take heart.



Michael S. Beates

Chaplain,
Bible Teacher, and
Alumni Parent

When Community Shows Up

A lot can change in twenty-four hours.

It began as I raced to Publix and Walmart to buy bottled water, batteries, and other hurricane supplies before they sold out . . . unaware of this subliminal but self-reliant mentality of "me first."

I then fought off my teenagers from our enormous rations of hurricane snacks as if fearful we would run out of food despite a pantry overflowing. Neighbors argued over generators at Home Depot while barking at each other to trim their trees that had crossed over property lines.

In retrospect, we desperately needed this hurricane to be reminded we are not living independent, autonomous lives separate from one another. The storms of life can strip us of the distracting façades from which we lean, leaving us vulnerable in our humble reliance on our Father.

When self-reliance no longer works . . .
When all of our best efforts are not enough . . .
When the flooding can't be controlled alone . . .

We need people who show up and help us dig the trenches.

That is exactly what happened within the Geneva community following Hurricane Ian. As families shared their immediate needs, the body of Christ jumped into action. It was a harmonious orchestra of time, talent, and treasure being offered up to serve one another.

You generously shared generators, trucks, and fans.

You chopped trees, removed drywall, and dug trenches.

You offered up your skilled services as electricians, roofers, and contractors.

You cooked and delivered meals, entertained children, washed others' laundry, and welcomed families into your home.

You cleaned up yard debris and salvaged boxes full of family treasures.

You delivered storage bins by the dozens and offered up mattresses, fresh toys, and even a car.

What began with a few hesitant requests that *maybe* somebody in our Geneva community could meet transformed into a confident expectation of what God is able to accomplish through the body of Christ.

Every single need was met.

God brings us to these postures of dependence upon the larger body of Christ with such purpose, and it is in these places of brokenness where we can see the providence of God with tremendous clarity. His delicate but profound fingerprints cover the details of our circumstance.

The storms of life remind us that we were meant to live in community. Community gives us a moment to exhale. It says, "I've got you. You are not alone. Let us in. We need each other."

So while we have gratitude that Hurricane Ian has passed and the rebuilding has begun, we are more united and prepared for the next storm, because it will come. It may not be with 75 mph winds or flooded garages. It may look more like an unexpected diagnosis, job loss, or heartbreak. However, in those seasons of darkness, we will remember that God shines his light through his people, and we are part of a beautiful community that shows up.

The Geneva School is a unique place where a culture of sacrificial giving has been cultivated since its founding by board members, friends of the school, and parents; seeing this vibrant and sacrificial love in action is inspiring. We are grateful for all of the ways that God has used the Geneva community over the last thirty years to provide exactly what was needed without reservation for one another and for the school at just the right time.



**Allison
Hendrix**

Alumni and
Community
Coordinator and
TGS Parent

Getting to Know...

devotion leader intentional team
unity **grandparents** missional
alumni campus **teachers** service
friends **COMMUNITY** home
caring family
mentor love
vocational **parents** committed
volunteers stewardship **coaches**
giving **students** thoughtful
compassion scholar kindness guardian

Sona Jho

TGS Board Member

I am Sona Jho, a Geneva parent and board member. My husband, Harry, and I have four children: Trajan (age 19), Augustine (age 16), Marcus (age 13), and Severus (age 11). A fun fact is that, prior to moving to Orlando in 2020 from NYC, Augustine, Marcus, and Severus attended The Geneva School of Manhattan, a Christian classical school in New York. My favorite things about Florida are the oak trees and the wildlife here. I was born in South Korea, am an avid skier, and enjoy traveling with my family. We attend Redeemer Bible Fellowship in Winter Park, which is part of the Expositor's church network. Having a background in education, I understand how special the Geneva experience is, and I am grateful to be a part of this community.

I have worked as a teacher, producer, and entrepreneur in the education and media space, and I hold a master's in education from Harvard University. I am the co-creator of Mother Goose Club, a popular video series for preschoolers on digital media, which has won multiple Emmy Awards as well as a number of other awards, including a Diamond Play Button from YouTube. Mother Goose Club's award-winning programs, songs, and apps are distributed worldwide via YouTube, Netflix, Amazon, Apple, and Spotify.





Gabe Philippe-Fisher

Current TGS Senior, Class of 2023

I am a senior at The Geneva School, and I have been at TGS for six years. To me, there is no doubt that The Geneva School drama program has been significant and beneficial to my life. Instead of focusing on how the drama program helped me build confidence or got me out of dark times (which it has), I would rather talk about all the cool stuff I have done. Why? First, because I normally don't get to brag about this stuff. Second, because it shows how the drama program brought out my love for theatre.

In eighth grade, I was cast as a senator and a mob member in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, meaning I got to wash my hands in blood and beat someone to death on stage. Then in tenth grade, I swordfought with Christian Walker; a professional fight choreographer staged our fights. In eleventh grade, I wrestled Eric Zhang.

It may sound like I just like acting out fights and killing people, which I do (I'm currently in a show where I brutally murder seven people, arguably eight), but because I have done the cool stuff—washing my hands in blood, murdering someone in cold blood, swordfighting,

and wrestling—it has led me to want to try other things like monologues or singing and dancing onstage. Before eighth grade, even though I had a burning passion for a particular musical, the thought of doing theatre was nonexistent. And now I'm preparing four monologues to audition for college theatre programs. I'm very thankful for the drama program.

What are the next steps? I'm not really sure. My default answer is usually, "I'm going to try to get a BFA in acting. Ideally, I would like to go to Penn State or FSU." The actual ideal is NYU giving me a \$150,000 scholarship, as well as allowing me to live on campus for free and giving me a free acting coach, but I guess that's not "realistic." In full honesty, I'm still uncertain about which school I'll attend, not just because I didn't put in my apps early and haven't auditioned anywhere yet but also because I don't have a set school I want to go to. The schools I'm applying to all seem like a good fit for me. All I know is that I want to act, whether that be here in Florida, in Pennsylvania, or in Michigan. If you ask me in February, I'll probably be able to tell you where I'm going.

Katlynn Bruce

Class of 2015

Recently, I decided to rewatch *The Hobbit*. As the dwarves break out into song in Bilbo Baggins' kitchen, I was transported back into Ms. Stivers' fifth grade classroom—a young girl proudly showing off her hobbit-hole in a matching costume. To people outside of The Geneva School, this memory may seem strange, but to me it's priceless. Geneva is where I learned to allow the pages of a book to transport me to another world or take me back to another time.

The foundation that I built at Geneva was even greater than the memories. My teachers taught me to think for myself and to ask the right questions. My coaches taught me the value of perseverance and dedication. My friends taught me to enjoy the small moments. Finally, the entire Geneva community taught me the importance of placing Jesus at the center of my life.

After graduating from the University of Florida with a degree in history, I went on to pursue a joint degree from Duke University School of Law. Law school challenged me intellectually, but it also challenged me spiritually. For the first time in my life, choosing Jesus meant choosing to be different, really different. After stumbling several times, Jesus pulled me back in. From there, I relied on the foundation that I had built at Geneva to once again seek the good, the true, and the beautiful.

Using the skills and tools that I developed at Geneva, I recentered my focus on Jesus. I began to enjoy law school, and I found my own path. From there, God brought me to the beautiful state of Colorado where I accepted my dream job and found a church that feels like home. I am extremely thankful to all the people at Geneva who helped me reach where I am today.

*Katlynn recently passed the Colorado bar exam as well. We celebrate with her on this momentous accomplishment.





Erin Goranson Math Teacher

Mark Twain once said, “Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life,” and I have found that in teaching.

In 2004, I finished my bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Tampa; then I went on to earn a master’s degree in secondary mathematics education.

I began my teaching career in 2007 at Boone High School in Orlando, teaching algebra and geometry. As a certified math instructor, I have also had the joy and privilege to teach at homeschool co-ops and tutor many students over the years. When our first daughter was born in 2010, I left the classroom to be a stay-at-home mommy, but I soon felt again that longing to teach, so in 2012, with two children under two years old, I started teaching algebra with Florida Virtual School. I taught there until I joined the Geneva upper school math faculty in 2020, and I am delighted to be back in the classroom, sharing my passion for math and instilling a love of mathematics and an appreciation for the beauty of math in my students.

Our four beautiful children are students at Geneva: Madison (‘28), Sarah (‘30), Liam (‘32) and Katherine (‘35). Glenn and I are both very passionate about classical education and have been an active part of the Geneva community since Madison enrolled in kindergarten. Our family loves camping, going to the beach, and spending time in the mountains of North Carolina during the summer and fall break. We are members of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, where Glenn and I volunteer with the children’s church and choir.

I look forward to what God is doing in the hearts and minds of the students here at Geneva, and I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.



the education, morals, values, and communities in which we surround ourselves and our children. We live near several Geneva families and were always impressed with the way they lived their lives and the character of their children; so, long story short, we took the tour, shadowed, met some other families, and never looked back.

Michelle is from Florida and I (Jay) am from Connecticut. We both went to Clemson University, and that is how we met. I was raised Catholic, and Michelle as a Baptist. We moved to Tampa in 1998 and were married at Disney World. We moved around Florida a bit and settled here in Central Florida. Michelle is a registered nurse, and I have a finance and accounting degree. We have had many different jobs, including being an executive at large corporations, starting our own franchise, owning a few restaurants, and owning our own consulting business. However, for those of you that have met us, you know our passion is our children and our community. We love to volunteer whenever we can (you will definitely see at least one Demo at the concession stand . . . if not all of us!).

We are an athletic and adventurous family as well. I was a wrestler in high school; Michelle danced her way through college; Jack plays football and basketball and went to the state championship last year for pole vaulting and enjoys anything outdoors; Max is a year-round diver and runs track as well. If you don't already know, we pioneered the Geneva swim and dive team in order for Max to continue to represent his new school with the talent he enjoys! Please come join us—our small team is taking home wins with only one high-schooler! We enjoy traveling when we can; we mostly do something outdoors. I am a Scoutmaster for a local troop at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and School, where both boys are working on their Eagle Scout projects, so we spend time volunteering there as well. We eat dinner as a family every night and thank God for how fortunate we are. If you haven't met us yet, please introduce yourselves!

**The Geneva school welcomes the Demo family!*

The Demo Family

Have you ever met a new person and felt like you have known them your entire life? Or perhaps walked into a new house and knew it was perfect? We are the Demo family and we are finally *home* at Geneva. We can't believe we have only been at the school for a few months now. Jack is in tenth grade and Max is in eighth. They both were so welcomed into the community that they already had friends well established before the first day. We only wish our oldest son, John, could have experienced this family; however, he is off at the University of Florida in his junior year.

As our world continues to evolve or devolve—I can't really tell sometimes—we felt ourselves compelled to re-evaluate



Celebrating The Geneva School's 30th Year

At the beginning of our thirtieth year, The Geneva School was blessed to gather faculty, staff, and students together again on one campus—K4 through twelfth grade—which hasn't happened in decades for our school community. What a joyous occasion!

As we look back on the last thirty years, we celebrate the wonderful history of The Geneva School. From the enthusiastic dreamers who envisioned a better education for their children and future generations to the over one hundred faculty and staff who serve the students today, generous, creative, dedicated people have been working to make the Christian classical education that children experience at Geneva unique and distinctive.

During Geneva's humble early beginnings, students gathered in a number of churches (one of which is no longer in existence) before finding a more permanent home; these wanderings were followed by the acquisition and renovation of an old Sports Authority on SR 436. For a few years, the entire Geneva community filled that space; when TGS's student population grew to be more than the building could accommodate, the ECC (early childhood campus) was born. These two buildings housed The Geneva School for many years.

In 2007, Geneva was able to purchase a new property in Casselberry, FL, that held the promise of one day welcoming the entire community in one place. This reunion was delayed for many years; however, during those years filled with waiting, the Geneva community was able to establish the athletic campus—which opened in the fall of 2016—and then the first permanent building on the property, the upper school building, was completed and opened to seventh through twelfth grade students in 2019.

After many years of hopeful anticipation, we joyfully opened the doors to the new lower school building in

August 2022 and began a new chapter in the life of the school.

Over the last thirty years, The Geneva School has seen 477 graduates (and gone from seven in the class of 2001 to thirty-five students in the class of 2022). Students have been on trips that include high school students visiting Italy over the years, our rhetoric choir traveling to Austria to sing, and many annual grade-level field trips to important areas in our great state (like Ponce Inlet, Blue Spring State Park, North Florida, and the Everglades) as well as outside of Florida (Williamsburg and Washington, DC). Geneva has been a leading authority in the Christian classical education movement, with many faculty members speaking at conferences and making significant contributions to the advancement of Christian classical education in the United States as well as abroad (notably in China and Africa).

The Geneva School has been blessed with exceptional staff and faculty members over the years, many of whom have demonstrated a remarkable longevity. Geneva's curriculum has been carefully developed using exceptional resources, and the fine arts and athletics programs have been cultivated and strengthened over the years by dedicated teachers and coaches who desire the best for the students they teach, guide, and nurture.

We are all grateful for the ways that the Lord has provided for the growth of The Geneva School. God's providence and sustaining grace have been the foundation for Geneva and its mission: to inspire students to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ's calling. We are excited to continue this endeavor for thirty more years and longer.

"Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!"

—Psalm 115:1

LOWER SCHOOL MURALS

Picture fourth grade students gathered on the reading mat in their classroom. As they listen to *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table* or *The Adventures of Robin Hood* being read aloud by their teacher, they sit below beautiful murals depicting a young man being knighted by a queen, scenes from monasteries, stained-glass cathedral windows, and adventures of Robin Hood. These beautiful murals, many painted by graduates of The Geneva School, help bring the stories to life.

In every grade in the lower school, you will find students sitting eagerly, anticipating the classic stories that paint pictures in their minds. Through the stories, they enter other worlds where animals chat or row down the river; where Egyptian pharaohs create massive tombs for themselves; where ancient heroes fight battles, build extensive roadways connecting an empire, and erect monuments in honor of powerful Caesars; where chivalrous knights defend kingdoms, and architects build beautiful cathedrals that reach to the heavens, pointing to the One who deserves all glory and honor. These stories are an important part of a Geneva education: stories that ignite the imagination through events that have shaped Western civilization and reveal how God is able to use both good and bad intentions for his purposes.

All of this is reflected in the murals that bring historical and literary scenes to life in classrooms. Lower school students at The Geneva School experience their academic journey surrounded by gorgeous, realistic images:

- K4 students see sweet woodland creatures and gorgeous trees as they play and learn.
- Kindergartners spend their days surrounded by adorable forest friends.
- First grade students encounter “twelve little girls in two straight lines,” Frog and Toad having adventures, or Peter Rabbit happily munching carrots in Mr. McGregor’s garden.
- Second graders have a view of the impressive Pyramids of Giza or the Nile River.



- Third graders take in the beauty of Roman architecture from the Colosseum to the amazing Roman aqueducts.
- Fourth graders are surrounded by imagery that reflects medieval Europe, from cathedral windows and monastery cloisters to Robin Hood and a lady honoring a knight who is kneeling before her.
- Fifth grade students see explorers sailing the ocean blue, the early colonies in Jamestown and Williamsburg, and the momentous occasion of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- Sixth graders, as they await the finishing of classroom murals, have several paintings in their classrooms that correlate to their literature and history studies: a space shuttle launch, Mount Rushmore, and a hobbit-hole. Their murals are coming soon: summer of 2023.
- And we must not forget the gorgeous cavern and the Florida ecosystem in the science classrooms!

The artists who created these wonderful murals have brought beauty to Geneva classrooms and left an important legacy. This kind of art shapes and inspires our imaginations, and it also transforms us as we consider the good, the true, and the beautiful expressed through these paintings. We would love for you to come see the artwork of the women who have shared their gifts with us in such profound ways.



SCIENCE CLASSROOM

LOWER SCHOOL MURAL ARTISTS

Maddie Noll ('16), Anna Classe ('17), Charlie Classe ('18), Raquel Smith ('19), Lilly Wilhite ('19), Abigail Clark ('20), Macy Noll ('21), Anna Mages ('22), Shelly Bradon (TGS art teacher), and Catherine Payne (former TGS receptionist and lower school after-school art teacher).



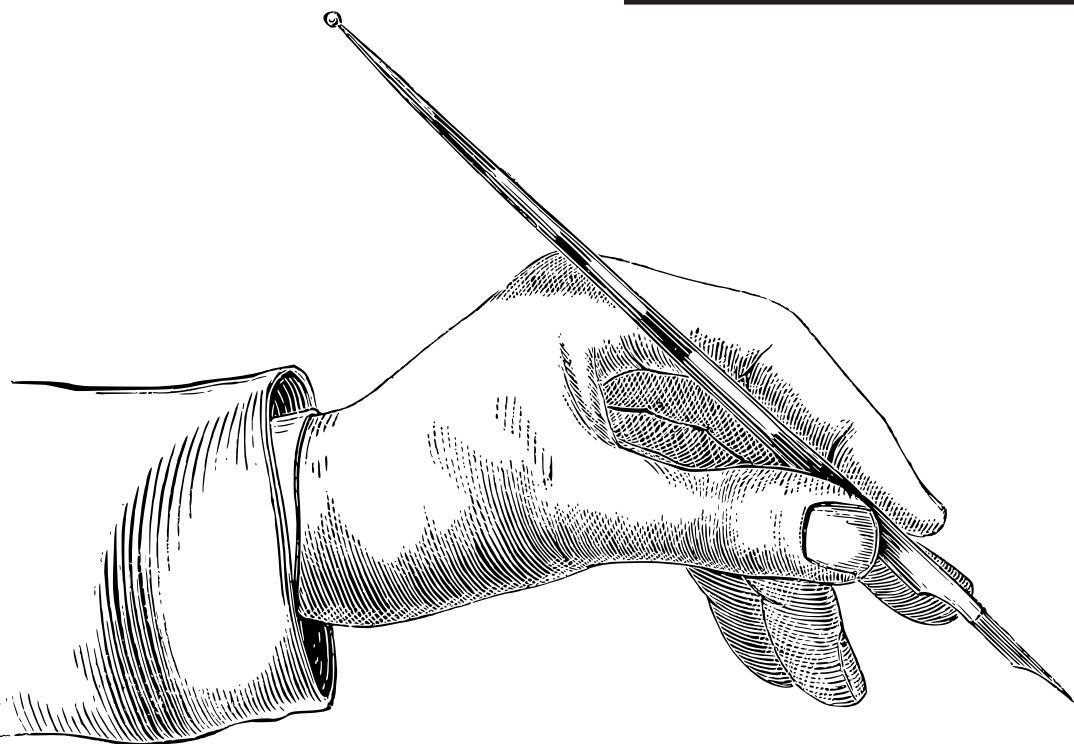
MAIN STAIRCASE



1ST GRADE CLASSROOM



2ND GRADE CLASSROOM



On “The Weight of Glory” by C. S. Lewis

During teacher inservice this past August, Geneva’s head of school, Brad Ryden, shared excerpts from the sermon entitled “The Weight of Glory” by C. S. Lewis to help faculty and staff think about and connect with our theme of hope and beauty for the year and the implications that this “weight of glory” has for hope and beauty in our lives.

Hearing the word *glory* brings many images to mind: athletic accomplishments such as winning Olympic gold; the beauty of a sunrise on the coast; watching a bride and groom as they see each other for the first time on their wedding day; holding a newborn just after she has made her grand entrance into the world. As different as these experiences are, there is something they have in common—

they are fleeting moments, often leaving us with an ache that C. S. Lewis in his sermon “The Weight of Glory” describes as “a desire for our own faroff country.”

This desire or longing, wrapped up in our humanity since the fall, pierces us in moments when we experience beauty. As Lewis so poignantly expresses, those moments are only “the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.”

Everything in our culture tries to convince us that the good life—the ultimate satisfaction of our desire—is here and now even so far as to say heaven can be found on earth, but we know deep down that earthly things, even good and

beautiful things, cannot provide ultimate satisfaction. So this longing has to be met by something other than earthly pleasures. As Christians, we look to scripture for answers, for clues as to what will satisfy this desire.

We find many verses that relate God's promises to believers. One of those promises is that we shall have "glory."

"Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2, ESV)

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" 2 Corinthians 3:18, ESV).

In "The Weight of Glory," Lewis gives attention to the idea of glory in the Christian's life. What does glory mean for a Christian? Why does it matter that we are promised glory? Lewis shares these beautiful thoughts about a realization in his personal life:

"But I thought I could detect a moment—a very, very short moment— . . . during which the satisfaction of having pleased those whom I rightly loved and rightly feared was pure. And that is enough to raise our thoughts to what may happen when the redeemed soul, beyond all hope and nearly beyond belief, learns at last that she has pleased him whom she was created to please. There will be no room for vanity then. She will be free from the miserable illusion that it is her doing. With no taint of what we should now call self-approval she will most innocently rejoice in the thing that God has made her to be, and the moment which heals her old inferiority complex forever will also drown her pride deeper than Prospero's book. . . . If God is satisfied with the work, the work may be satisfied with itself."

He calls our knowledge of God's love—God's delight in us—"a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain." And in this love and this promise of glory, we find acceptance: "The door on which we have been knocking all our lives will open at last." We will be known and loved by our creator and Father in heaven, invited in to be with him, to feast with him.

Lewis goes on to say that some may wonder why we should bother thinking about such things, and then he offers a profound answer: "The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken." Thinking of our fellow human beings in this way, from those whom we see at school, work,

or play to those whom we serve on SALT day, will help us to see that everyone we meet, no matter what kind of person they are right now, may one day be a glory-filled "everlasting splendour" or someone who, without God, ends in immortal corruption.

What we ought to consider is how, each day by our actions and words, we influence, guide, or spur others to one or the other of these potential ends. Lewis encourages us to be merry

but to be people who take one another seriously in light of these truths. We are walking on holy ground every day with fellow immortals: a "weight of glory" we live with, indeed.

If you are able to read the sermon in its entirety, it will be well worth your time. You can find it online or in the book *The Weight of Glory*, which includes this sermon and several others.

All quotations are from "The Weight of Glory" in *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses* by C. S. Lewis (HarperCollins, 2001), 25–46.

“The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken.”



Christina Walker

Communications Coordinator and TGS Parent



Three Piggy Opera

Aubrey Clark



Fall Senior Speech



Three Piggy Opera



Three Piggy Opera



Fall Senior Speech
Charles White



Fall Senior Speech

Elle Black

Beginning with the End

Did Lewis Carroll write this title? He did not! Beginning with the end is actually the more logical approach that a school can take when planning a curriculum. When a school begins with the ultimate goals that it has for graduates, it creates the necessity for the descending grades to coordinate and plan accordingly. Working backwards, faculty and administrators are able to set priorities and determine what skills and knowledge are necessary to focus on in each grade while also integrating faith and learning.

In their book *Wisdom and Eloquence*, Robert Littlejohn and Charles T. Evans offer this insight to guide the paradigm: “The responsibility of teaching students to love reading great works is made simpler if we know in first grade what they must read in order to comprehend Homer or Isaiah by ninth grade” (p. 98). The same principle can, and should, be applied throughout the curricula.

The Geneva School strives to accomplish these goals by taking time to evaluate, adjust, and improve curricula and other aspects of school life in order to serve students well and fulfill its mission to inspire students to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ’s calling. Working from twelfth grade backwards and planning with intentionality and purpose, Geneva designs classes that then build toward the objective: graduates who are virtuous scholars prepared to be lifelong learners as well as individuals who live flourishing Christian lives.

The path from K4 to twelfth grade at Geneva is much like a treasure map: following important markers that lead to valuable wealth—in this case, a wealth of knowledge and understanding and wisdom—and uncovering and revealing gems along the way. These

include discovering abilities and gifts that students do not know they have until they take classes in photography or art or choir or any number of offerings and discover hidden talents.

When the curriculum is planned from twelfth grade to K4, the pathway is established. The journey then progresses with daily structure and rhythms as well as prayer. Together, these prepare students to be lifelong learners who continue to seek wisdom, communicate truth, and love their neighbors.

While each “treasure seeker” is made in God’s image, each faces different life circumstances and carries different strengths and weaknesses. The beauty and wonder of a Christian classical education is that the “treasure” is timeless and transcends vocation and career, speaking to bigger issues related to living flourishing lives for God’s glory.

We invite you to watch/listen to these senior speeches that were presented to the board of governors, school administrators, and parents in September 2022. At Geneva, students begin their journey of preparation for various senior-year speeches (and life beyond) in the lower school:



password: knightpics

from pet fair speeches to the performance of the *Three Piggy Opera* in K4, the Animal Monologues in first grade, “Come to My Colony” and Founding Father speeches in fifth grade, history presentations in eighth grade, the tributes given to seniors in eleventh grade, and many play performances during the lower school years. These experiences lead to senior thesis presentations in the spring of their final year at TGS. They lay the groundwork for future rhetorical endeavors, providing opportunities to develop their skills as they mature, practicing the art of speaking winsomely, wisely, and persuasively to an audience in developmentally appropriate ways.



SALT Serveathon

October 21

This year, we were given an extraordinary opportunity to look with fresh eyes at what it takes to accomplish an enterprise like SALT day. The first definition of *enterprise* in Merriam-Webster (online) is “a project or undertaking that is especially difficult, complicated, or risky.” The third entry is “readiness to engage in daring or difficult action.” Between pulling off the SALT Serveathon day in the spring of 2021, just one year after COVID shut the world down, and the miraculously quick turnaround we had this year when Hurricane Ian forced us to change our plans, *enterprise* is a fitting word for the ambitious feat we call SALT. When these fourteen different projects are set up each year by Carol Beth Haynes, our amazing advancement coordinator, there are, at a minimum, fourteen opportunities for things to go sideways. But with God’s sovereign providence and sustaining power, we witness so many ways things go right!

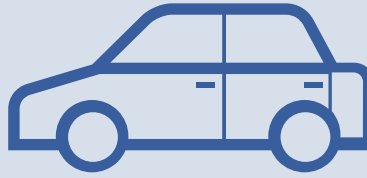
This year, our community served on twelve projects due to hurricane-related shifting; four grades doubled up. Thinking about how we were able to serve on these projects brings so much joy; when we live out the gospel along with professing the good news, that good news comes alive in compelling ways. We thank you, the Geneva community, for your support this year: praying as we prepared, volunteering to help during the weeks leading up to the projects and then on SALT day, and partnering with The Geneva School to raise over \$317,000 for our tuition assistance program. Thank you for undertaking difficult things and for being ready to engage: with those in our Geneva community and with our neighbors in Central Florida. This was an exceptional enterprise, and we are grateful for God’s provision and for your partnership and presence.





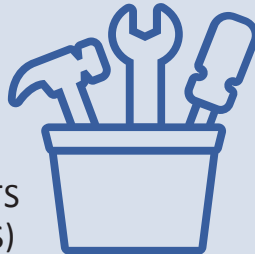
**71 \$1250+
SPONSORS**

**89 CARS TO TAKE
EVERYONE**



**\$318,000+
TOTAL RAISED**

**12 PROJECTS
(14 GRADES)**



**93% OF STUDENTS
HAD A PLEDGE**

SALT SPONSORS

DIAMOND

Armstrong Financial
Laura and John Riley
University Dental Group and Breathing
Wellness Center
Anonymous Donor

PLATINUM

Altamonte Implant and Cosmetic Dentistry
The Armstrong Family
The Austin Family
Premier Sotheby's Realty-Dan Haber
Mother Goose Club
Rivendell Ventures

GOLD

Match-Up
Air Flow Designs
Aloma Church
Cahill Homes
Chick-fil-a-Tuskawilla Road and Forsyth
Road
Coldwell Banker Realty-Rhonda Hunter
Vredenburgh

DDA Architecture
Gator Door East
GFG Solutions
Golden Dough Foods
Hackenberg Engineering
The Hangry Bison/ Pizzeria Valdiano
Marjean and Bob Ingram
The Johnson Family
The Kinnett Family
Onsite Safety
The Pigula Family
Puff n' Stuff/ Heirloom
Real Thread
SML Consulting
Shutts
Site Storage
Westbrook Service Corporation
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
YardCo

SILVER

4Rivers
The Andreasen Family
Barham Court Consulting
Michelle and Ryan Bundenthal

The Chamberlain Family
The Classe Family
Coffman Family Law
Cote Periodontics
Rebecca and Ben Davis
Shelley and Mark Endras
Florida Utility Trailers
Floridian Custom Homes
Fortress Storage
Garden Veterinary Clinic
Grit and Grain
Grounding Roots
The Gruninger Family
The Hensley Family
The Hill Family
Holladay Properties
The Hueber Family
Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream
Liz and Steven Kennedy
Joanne and Robert Kim
The Kupietz Family
The Maughan Family
The McDade Family
MICHEL RE LLC
Prestige Worldwide Marketing

500
BLESSING
BAGS MADE



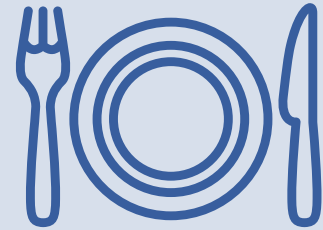
1,072
VOLUNTEERS



21 DAYS BETWEEN THE
ORIGINAL AND ACTUAL
SALT DAY



\$6,043.17 RAISED
FROM K4-6TH GRADE
PIGGY BANKS



20,244
MEALS PACKED

RAM Performance and Rehab
Renewal by Anderson
The Shiflett Family
Universal Roof & Contracting
The Vollenweider Family

BRONZE

Miriam Aziz and John Abdelnoor
Hollie and Jackson Benjumea
Jacqueline and Derryl Benton
Kathy and Jay Bernhardt
Todd Birnie
Sarah and Enoch Birx
Chris Black
Lizette and Adrian Blackwell
Nikki and Matthew Blanton
Lindsay and Ben Blood
Julie and Scott Bowen
Christine and Brandon Burkey
Justine and Roger Cascante
Megan and Tommy Ciserano
Jennifer and Mark Christ
CNC Machines
Sunshine and Jeff Cross
Ashley and Brendon Dedekind

Sarah and Chris Delaney
Vickie and Michael Eastham
Quyless and Francis Force
The Frost Family
Christina and Florin Gadalean
Sue and Ben Gallant
Erin and Glenn Goranson
Jen and Rusty Graf
Sarah and Matt Hammer
Lindsay and Jason Harne
Ashley and Sean Harris
Brooke and Kevin Harrison
Renata and Grant Heard
Amy and John Heidmann
Jamy Rodriguez and Fabio Henao
Andrea and Stephen Infantino
Beth and Tom Infantino
Janie and Marion Johnson
Sabrina and Bob Johnson
Ece and Aristotelis Koufos
Meg and Jason Mages
Ellen and Landis Major
Trish and Chuck Miceli
Liliana and Emerson Mosquera
Kathy Okane

Sarah and Alvaro Osorio
Zamantha and Ryan Phillips
The Prado Family
Mary and Mark Ranson
Kirsten and John Raser
Reformed Theological Seminary
Katie and Alan Rhine
Becky and Brad Ryden
Meredith and Michael Sasso
Heather and Scot Shiflett
Cathy and Justin Sills
Brenda and Stan Smith
Glen and Lisa Spears
Sylvia and Kendall Spencer
So Wah and Dion Steinborn
Dawn and Mike Strobeck
Audi and Jeremy Swift
Karen and Jonathan Thigpen
Jaynee and Ryan Thompson
Susan and Tom Ventura
Kamillia and Reggie White

STORIES: WHERE WE FIND HOPE, BEAUTY, AND LIFE

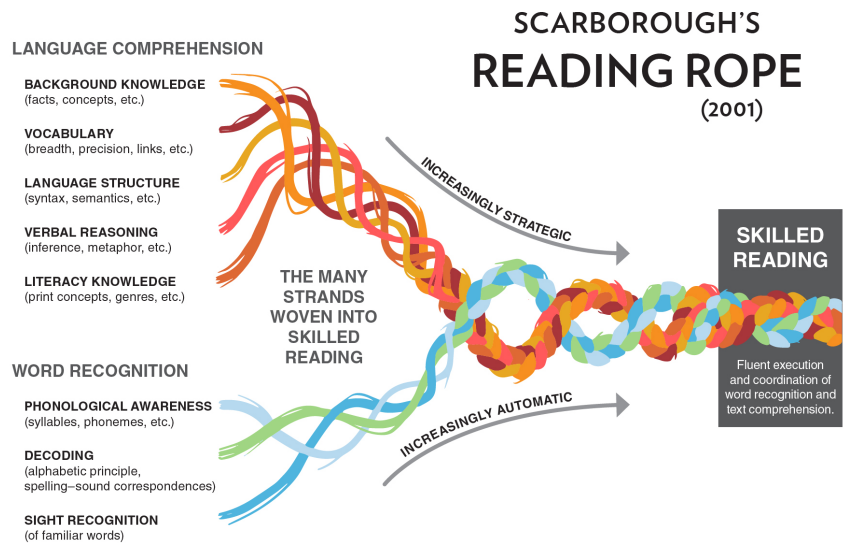
By Christina Walker

If you have been around The Geneva School for any period of time, you realize quickly that this community is made up of people who love words. Our Christian classical education is steeped in the humanities and includes training in grammar, logic, and rhetoric as well as Latin. Our students learn not only the meaning of words but also the history and proper use of words. This includes stringing words together to create arguments, logical propositions, or poems.

Words are powerful: they are at the heart of almost every meaningful experience in our lives. We communicate, relate, work, and play using words. As Christians, we understand the significance of words through the first chapter of Genesis, which repeatedly declares, “And God said, ‘Let there be ...,’” and then again in the first chapter of John, which says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made”

(John 1:1–3, ESV). God, the all-powerful creator of everything, chooses words to create!

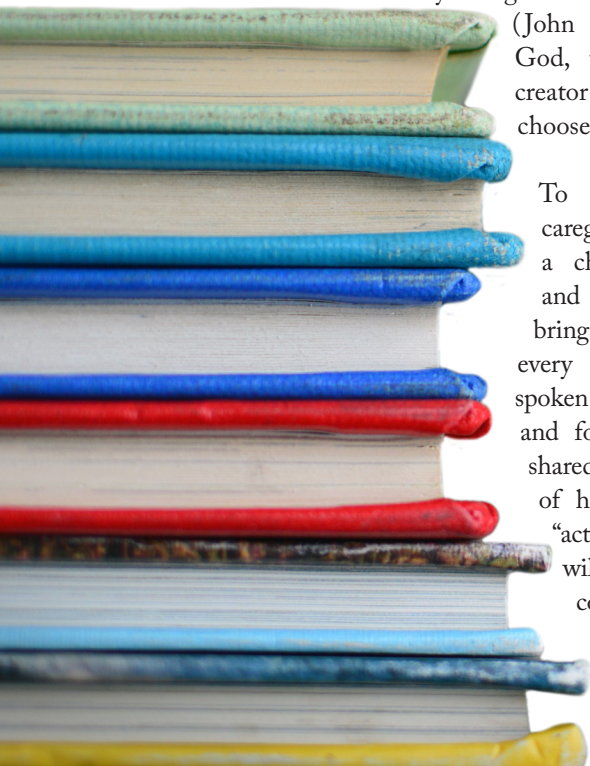
To a parent or caregiver, witnessing a child’s acquisition and mastery of words brings great joy. I think every person I have spoken with about three- and four-year-olds has shared delightful stories of hearing the word “actually” used with wild abandon in conversation once



a little one discovers it. When children learn a new word, they are excited to include it when speaking to anyone older, showing that they, too, are part of this wonderful world—communicating truths, creating bonds and memories, cultivating relationships. Knowing and using words connects us to one another and to our creator, the one who gave us this gift; as Gladys Hunt says so beautifully in her book *Honey for a Child's Heart*, “This is the magic of words—a touch of the supernatural, communication that ministers to the spirit, a true gift” (p. 4).

One of the most powerful tools that we as parents have to teach, guide, and prepare our children for life is a simple one: reading to and with them. From board books and picture books when they are little to short stories and novels when they are older, reading to our children builds a strong foundation for future success and also builds a framework for what they experience, feel, and think. Just reading to your child for twenty minutes a day will expose him or her to almost two million words in one year!

We live in an age that offers additional reading tools that allow even the busiest of families to read together and explore new worlds—listening to audiobooks on trips across town or across the country (and reading





along with the book when it is possible) or having books in a digital form on a device when bringing bound books is not possible are a couple of ways to add reading to your family life.

Of course there are reports and statistics that show what kind of academic success strong readers can look forward to, but what I would love to impress upon parents at The Geneva School is the possibility of a better world because we have children who love good literature and have developed strong moral imaginations through reading stories that reveal “how to be a human being and what the possibilities of life are” (p. 48). When we read to our children, we open up the world to them in magnificent ways: far away and unfamiliar things and places draw closer and become familiar; we convey truth to them while encouraging adventure, imagination, and creativity; and they grow in sympathy and understanding. As Gladys Hunt says eloquently, “Good literature shows readers how to be more; it offers hope” (p. 48).

“Inspiring students to love beauty, think deeply, and pursue Christ’s calling” is not just a catchy slogan for Geneva. This is a goal that everyone on staff takes seriously, and the bedrock of this mission is reading.

For a list of books for readers of all ages, borrow or purchase a copy of Gladys Hunt’s book *Honey for a Child’s Heart*. In it, you will find an excellent selection of reading material for your whole family. We encourage you to read together and to read on your own and share what you are reading with one another.

Some Statistics on Reading in the USA:

- 65% of fourth graders score “below proficient,” which means that only 35% are reading at or above grade level.
- In 2019, 37% of twelfth grade students were reading at or above grade level; 63% of twelfth graders were not reading at their grade level. This has huge effects on life as they begin their lives as adults; reading proficiency affects everything from everyday living (think of what we read just strolling aisles in the grocery store) to being able to manage healthcare for oneself or one’s family.
- There are studies that show that reading just six extra minutes a day can greatly improve a child’s reading ability. And in a study by Nagy and Herman (1987), they conclude that reading twenty minutes a day will expose a child to almost 1.8 million words in one year. Imagine the strong vocabulary and imaginative capabilities of someone who took in stories this way.
- Reading isn’t just for children! From catching up on classic literature that we missed out on (I have a long personal list myself) to enjoying some of the contemporary releases, reading can positively impact adult brain activity and reduce mental decline as we age; it also reduces stress and helps us not feel alone.

Google statistics on reading to find this information and more.

A WEEK IN

Upper School

Thursday
10/20



Homecoming Pep Rally



Volleyball District Finals

Friday
10/21



SALT 2022



Rhetoric Fall Dance

Lower School

Thursday
10/20



5th Grade
Barberville Pioneer Settlement

Friday
10/21



SALT 2022

Students experience what they are learning about, have "ah-ha!" moments, pray for and serve others, grow relationships, and have fun—at Geneva, education, character development, and teachable moments happen inside and outside of the classroom. Geneva has been blessed with a community of people who understand the value of a multi-faceted education and help make weeks like this one happen.

THE LIFE

**Saturday
10/22**



Buff Puff

**Monday
10/24**



**7th Grade
North Florida**

**Wednesday
10/26**



The Magic Flute Opera

OCTOBER 20-27

**Tuesday
10/25**



**5th Grade
Flag Football**

**Wednesday
10/26**



**1st Grade
Animal Monologues**

**Thursday
10/27**



**3rd Grade
Trojan War Play Rehearsals**



**4th Grade
Viking Day**



THE GENEVA SCHOOL
1775 SEMINOLA BOULEVARD
CASSELBERRY, FL 32707

CHRISTMAS

FESTIVAL *and* MARKET

December 3rd | 2 - 6 pm



1993-2023

30

YEARS

THE GENEVA SCHOOL 2022-2023

Together

ONE MISSION ONE CAMPUS