

“In accordance with the Truth”

GENEVA OFFERS A
UNIQUELY CLASSICAL,
DISTINCTIVELY
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
FOR K-12

*We aim to produce poised,
knowledgeable students who are
able to reason logically and
communicate persuasively and
who love learning.
Investigate our unique
educational approach.*

**2012-2013
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Ribbon Cutting Celebration: New Campus Heralds Opportunity for Geneva to Grow

The community's response to our October 23, 2013 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was overwhelming. Dignitaries, founding board members, and the broader Geneva community gathered for the Lakeland Chamber event. Commissioner Howard Wiggs spoke on the remarkable mission and vision of Geneva as a classical Christian school. Claudia Tritton with the Lakeland Economic Development Council told guests she was pleased to attend such an event for the promotion of education in our community. Geneva Headmaster, Rich Cali gave a bold address on the need for a generation of culturally literate students (see below). Students sang "Holy, Holy, Holy" and recited a prayer in Latin. The ribbon cutting was followed by a reception and tours of the new campus.

A Dickens of an Education *Richard Cali*

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period."

Some of you reading this may recognize these words. Still fewer will know the original source. These are the opening lines of Charles Dickens' classic novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. These famous words have been learned and often memorized by English speaking school children as part

of their education for ages—until now!

Even up to my mother's generation, students used to memorize Shakespeare, Milton, and Chaucer; they used to read Homer, Virgil, and Dante; history and civics were actual classes! They also knew the cultural references for the terms like "Achilles Heel," "Trojan Horse," and "Caesarian Section." "Amo, amas, amat" and "Vedi, vidi, vici!" were phrases that actually meant something to those trained by the rigor of ancient Latin.

Students today spend most of their time prepping for tests or working to



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- *Dynamic, exciting curriculum that inspires life-long learning.*
- *Format that engages the progressive development stages of a child's mind.*
- *Christian worldview integrated into every subject.*



Open House: January 29, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

New Geneva Campus · 4204 Lakeland Highlands Rd., Lakeland

A Dickens of an Education continued...

improve their self-esteem. (I suppose, ironically, this good feeling is often in spite of their poor performance). Our contemporary culture has tried to reinvent education by making "self-esteem," political correctness, and statism the school curriculum. As a society, we have turned our backs on the roots of Western Civilization.

Author, David McCulloch, testified before a U.S. Senate committee that "...Sadly, history is being put on the back burner or taken off the stove altogether in many or most schools." Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor now co-chairs a "Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools," adds "as civic learning has been pushed aside, society has neglected a fundamental purpose of American education, putting the health of our democracy at risk."

A generation that has read Dickens, Milton, and Shakespeare is introduced to history, the beauty of language, and the transcendence of themes with which these works deal. These students are not only literate enough to read signs, menus,

and the directions for how to operate an iPad, but they are *culturally* literate. The next generation needs to know the history and literary tradition that has produced great statesmen, artists, clergy, scientists, and leaders of the past. We need our future leaders to understand from where we've come and have a vision for where we're going.

This is why Geneva Classical Academy exists. We were founded in 1996 by a group of concerned parents who wanted to recover this kind of education for their children. They desired a rigorous education that not only challenges students in reading, writing, and math, but also challenges them to think by introducing them to the great thinkers of Western Civilization, evaluating all things through the lens of the Holy Bible. The school has moved beyond our infancy to the next stage of our development as marked by today's momentous occasion.

We aim for a Geneva student to be culturally astute. For example, a Geneva student that has read Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* can understand the historical and literary references of the current film

"Dark Knight Rises." He can see and understand the implications of that story for today. When Batman is fallen and the villainous Bane is wreaking havoc on the city, the crazy Dr. Crane sits in judgment over the people. It becomes a "reign of terror" with the affluent and the authorities becoming victims. This is the same thing that happened in France during the French Revolution and is the setting for the Dickens novel. But also like the sacrifice that takes place in *A Tale of Two Cities*, one person sacrifices himself for the people of Gotham. That is why Commissioner Gordon holds a copy of the book at the end of the movie, opened to the last line: "Tis a far better thing I do than I've ever done." The references are unmistakable to the erudite.

While much of our culture seems to be sinking, there is hope in Christ who is at work in redeeming that which was lost. He is, we pray, using Geneva Classical Academy for this work in restoration. Author and Christian apologist, Francis Schaeffer in his book, *Escape from Reason*, speaks to this: "[The Christian's] responsibility is to communicate... unchanging truths in a changing world."

In closing, Geneva Classical Academy exists for the purpose of raising up a generation that learns the lessons of history, understands and engages culture, and leads according the example of Christ. Our culture and our community need Geneva Classical Academy. There is much to be hopeful about in the midst of what appears to be chaotic. *A Tale of Two Cities* could be describing our current milieu.

Again, Francis Schaeffer: "If we are to understand present-day trends in thought we must see how the situation has come about historically... If we are to communicate the Christian faith effectively, we must know and understand the thought-forms of our own generation."

Geneva Classical Academy celebrates its seventeenth year of the work of God in planting us and growing us in this community to make a positive difference. "Tis a far better thing that we do!"

Invest In Virtue

Our culture needs leaders who serve virtuously. Geneva Classical Academy engages our students in virtues of truth, goodness, and beauty to nourish their souls and thereby help produce leaders with godly character. We ask you to make a year-end gift or pledge to invest in virtue today.

For further information on giving please contact Rich Cali, Headmaster at rcali@genevaclassicalacademy.com or 863.644.1408.

Geneva students raised over \$20,000 for their school through Walk-a-Thon in October.

Sporting Clays Benefit

Congratulations to Mr. Rick Spradlen for taking first place in the men's division and to Stacie Sokolski for winning first place in the women's. Teams placed as follows: First – Dr. H.G. Robinson, Mr. Howard Barnes, and Dr. Todd Robinson, Second – Dara Goodson, Minter Goodson, Lief Goodson, and Jonathan Funk. The sixth annual Sporting Clays event brought in over \$10,000.

Sporting Clays Gold Sponsors:

Hazel Crosby Carlton Foundation
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Lory Pyle instructs her students, Jackson and Taylor, as they compare the heat absorption of water and sand. Ms Pyle recently attended the NASA Moon Rock and Meteorite Certification Workshop hosted by Warner University.

Geneva Classical Academy, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization in accordance with IRS code section 501 (c) (3) and chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes. Contributions of cash, property or in-kind goods are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law. Geneva Classical Academy, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies or other school-administered programs.

SAVE THE DATE



**February 22, 2013
at 6:00 p.m.**

DANA Camp House, Alturas
Invitations will be mailed.

At Geneva, we are raising up future community leaders. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 at the 16th Annual BuckFin Banquet & Auction to support this high quality, classical Christian education. Sponsorship opportunities are available:

The Big Buck \$5,000

(Official event sponsor, table recognition, premier seating for 8, full page program ad)

The Bull Dolphin \$2,500

(premier seating for 4, half page ad in program)

The Gator Tail \$1,000

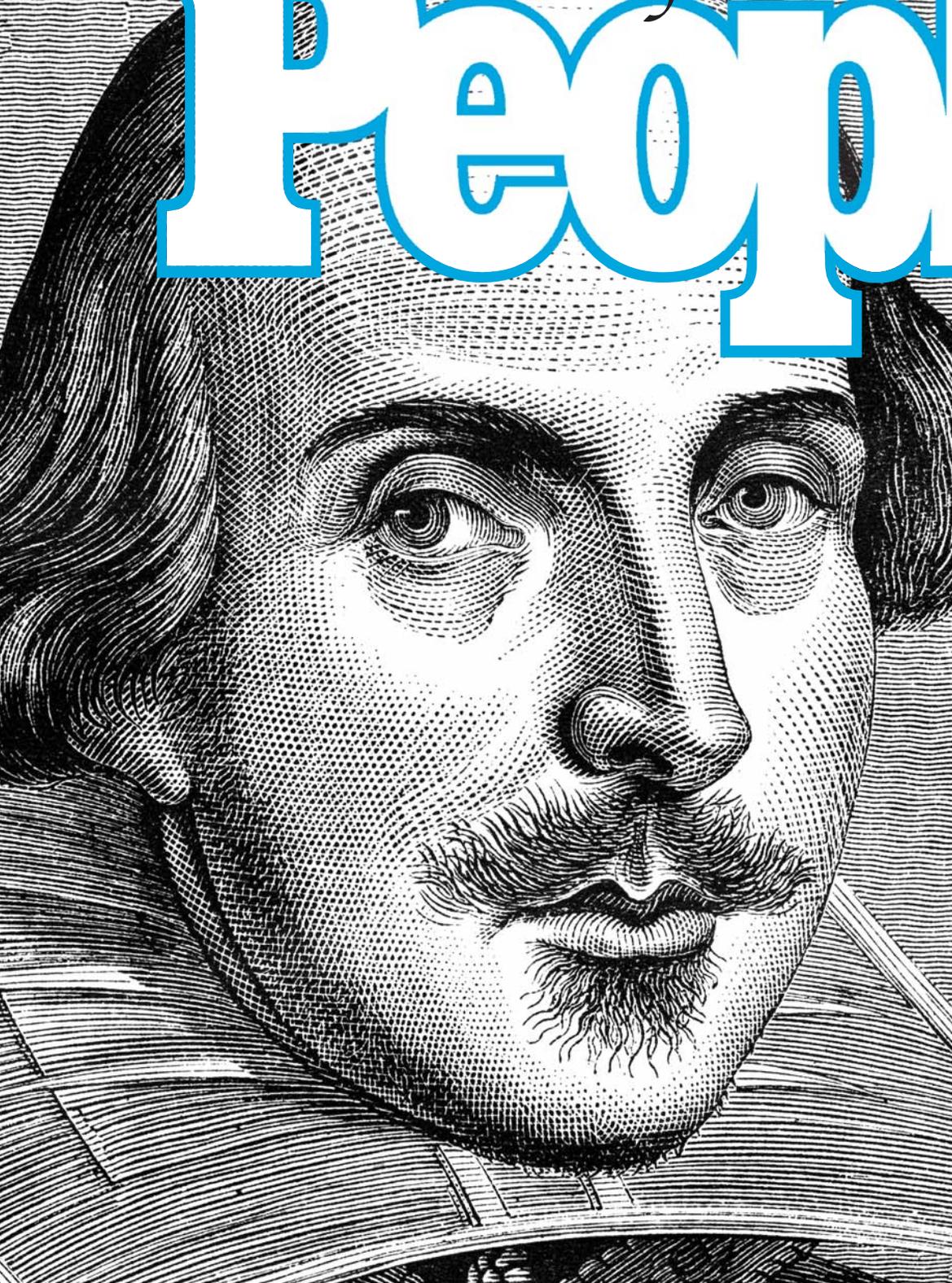
(premier seating for 2, quarter page ad in program)

The Wild Hog \$500

(eighth page ad in program)

All corporate sponsors receive signage space at BuckFin and promotion in printed materials.

Shakespeare's
People®



Alas!



Poor Yorick

Kiss Me!



Kate

*Don't
Call Me*



Rose

Performed by the Geneva Theatre Arts Class

Friday, Jan. 25 at 6:30pm & Saturday, Jan. 26 at 2pm

First Presbyterian Church Chapel, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801 Admission: \$10/Adult, \$5/Student