



GENEVA ACADEMY

Distinctive Classical Christian Learning

Geneva Journal

Vol. 1 | Issue 2 | October 2014

October 2014

Message from the Headmaster:

Our Celebration of Reformation Day

My public education taught me very little about the Reformation. I had but a vague notion, and I mostly considered it a long-ago and somewhat puzzling battle between Catholics and Protestants. Even after becoming a Christian, and despite very active church involvement, I learned little of Church history or the meaning of that great struggle.

Yet in raising my own children and looking for the Biblical foundations for doing things, my wife and I kept running into authors, speakers, and websites that drew wisdom from Reformation writers. The instruction was powerful...I was reminded of the verse in Mark 1:22, "And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." The reformers taught with a clear and godly authority that, at least to me, made many modern writers seem shallow, trendy, or emotional in comparison.

I started reading about the Reformation. The reformers did not intend to start revolutions. They loved the Church, and grieved at the errors that had sprung up within it. Wycliffe sought to eliminate superstitions which prevented the laity from finding peace in God. Tyndale prayed that widespread knowledge of God's Word would bring joy and life and understanding to Englishmen. Luther was jealous for Christ's honor in saving men, and wanted papal condemnation of selling indulgences. Calvin's first concern was not salvation, but worshipping God in the way God had commanded.

These men and many others of the 1500's and 1600's were willing to die for the recovery of New Testament gospel teaching, and many did. Their calling into question church practices ended up rattling the foundations of monarchs, economies, and church government. The Scriptures tell of God's shaking nations, and I am certain that during the Reformation, in the words of Jerry Lee Lewis, "there was a whole lotta shakin' going on."

The Reformation led directly into the history of the North American colonies and founding of our own nation. Many of the beliefs we hold to be "American" come from Reformed teaching. They include the equality of men before God, the value of work (no matter what the occupation when done unto God's glory), the propriety of self-governance, the accountability of rulers, the importance of literacy, etc.

To be ignorant of the riches of this heritage and the incredible, exciting stories of those centuries is like passing by a screened off but sumptuous banquet. Just pull the curtain aside and step in! Feast!

Thus at Geneva Academy we make an effort to bring to life some portion of the Reformation every year. In the last few years we've looked at French Huguenots, Scottish Covenanters, and ordinary Germans. This year we are going to look at the academy John Calvin started in Geneva in 1559. Students came from all over Europe, studied at Geneva, and then returned to bless their own countries.

Come and join us for the day, and learn a little more of your Christian heritage! •

"Heureux l'homme qui ne marche pas selon le conseil des méchants..."

(Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly...)
Psalm 1:1



Spell to Write and Read Program at Geneva Academy

Only four weeks of school have passed and already our Geneva students are experiencing some pretty amazing learning. Among many, one shining area for the grammar school is phonics and spelling. This bright spot can be credited in large part to Geneva's new phonics program *Spell to Write and Read* by Wanda Sensari. This program can be a bit overwhelming at first. Here are a few highlights so we can keep up with our children's learning.

This program does exactly what its name implies; students are taught to spell first, with reading as the natural outcome of the decoding learned in spelling. The basis of this program is phonograms and spelling rules. For those of you who are not Geneva grammar students, a phonogram is a letter or group of letters that represents a sound of speech. The English language contains 26 letters, but has 45 sounds that are written in 70 basic ways (70 phonograms). Surprisingly 80% of English words can be spelled with only these 70 phonograms and 29 spelling rules.

With *Spell to Write and Read*, students are taught spelling through listening to dictation and constructing words from the phonograms they hear, not through copying and memorizing words. This emphasis on spelling makes decoding words automatic and students naturally become strong, fast readers. A

tenet of this program is that good spellers almost always become good readers, but good readers do not always become good spellers.

Another strength of *Spell to Write and Read*, is its emphasis on multi-sensory instruction. During typical *Spell to Write and Read* instruction a student's four senses of seeing, saying, hearing and writing are all engaged. Sensari states in her teacher's guide, "Multi-sensory instruction teaches to every child's strength and remediates every child's weakness." Whether your child is a visual, auditory or kinesthetic learner, all are covered by this approach.

Students create their own spelling textbooks or Learning Logs each school year. This book serves as part practice and part reference. Students can see the accumulation of their daily accomplishments and often find this record very motivating.

Spell to Write and Read is a very well thought-out and researched program with numerous benefits beyond a traditional phonics program. Taking regular time each week to go over phonograms and practice dictation with your student will help him or her enjoy the full benefits of this program. For more information on *Spell to Write and Read* visit Wanda Sensari's website at www.bhibooks.net. Many of the *Spell to Write and Read* products can also be found on Amazon. •

by Mrs. Nikki Yun, Geneva mother of 5



Message from the Editor

Dear Geneva parents and students, can you believe we are already in the month of October?! Some of you may know, I was born and raised in Ukraine. I remember my Home Economics classes, which were basic lessons in domestic skills. I learned to cook, to sew, to knit, etc. and would like to teach our students some of these skills. What do you think about doing something like that at Geneva, starting with 5thth grade kids? Maybe include younger and older students too? We could begin with simple finger knitting and then venture into something more intricate. It is a fun activity for both boys and girls (adults too). Since school hours are very intense, we could meet right after 3:00pm, let's say, every Wednesday, starting after Christmas? Please let me know what you think about it. I'd like to hear your opinion.

Thank you,

Iryna Boehland

e-mail me at newsletter@genevaroseburg.com or anytime you see me at school



We are blessed and thankful to have many wonderful teachers at Geneva Academy. Mr. Mark Sumpter, Logic and Rhetoric Teacher graciously shares with us his informal Bio...

“How do you want that steak cooked... and your eggs?”

I enjoy steak and eggs, but there’s nothing like Tabasco sauce sprinkled on! I was born in New Iberia, Louisiana, which is deep into Cajun country and which prides itself on being the capital where Tabasco sauce is produced. After my childhood of 8-9 years in south Louisiana, my father packed up his wife and four sons and moved us to Anchorage, Alaska. Does someone know how to spell c-h-a-n-g-e?! He was an off-shore driller in the booming petroleum industry, and his work transferred him up there. Alaska meant long winters, ice hockey, and seeing moose mosey down the middle of our neighborhood street. In my high school years, I met Peggy (Mrs. Sumpter), and a few years later, we were married.

God’s faithfulness to me during my growing up years speaks of love and care. It was His love that drew me into His plan of salvation through Bible teaching. Memorably, at 18 years of age, I confessed Jesus Christ as my Living Savior! His care provided me with good, sound experiences in my church life. To be blessed by faithful Sunday school teachers was a highlight. Within two years of starting to walk with the Lord, I knew I wanted to learn more about the Bible. I enrolled at Multnomah University (Portland, OR)—back then it was Multnomah School of the Bible. What a treat to give myself to full-time study of God’s Word. Learning from Multnomah has stayed with me. From there, it was on to seminary in Southern California where I studied at Westminster Theological Seminary in Escondido, California. Around this time, our home-schooling adventures began. I was pumped up and eager to teach my first Latin students! Peggy concentrated on a variety of subjects in our homeschool, and I gave focus to Latin, History and Writing. Little did I know that I would get to teach Latin in a formal setting like Geneva—Cheers!

In 1989, we moved from California back to Alaska to serve with other families to start a church. Within this time frame, our family grew to six children: five boys and one girl. We taught all them at home and along

the way, a few of them enrolled at a local Christian school. My years of ministry involved pastoral work, children’s and youth work, and some short-term missionary service. We found ourselves moving across the country to the greater Washington, D.C. area for pastoral work, and eventually, we returned to the Northwest, here in Southern Oregon, where we have engaged in more pastoral service.

The past 10 years have brought about fruit-bearing, educationally speaking. Our children gained exposure to Christian, Classical education at New St. Andrews College in Idaho. Blessing upon blessing has been ours! I often say to moms and dads at Geneva, “Our kids went to college and we, as mom and dad, received the education!” Our kids have had two or three buckets of influence on us. Lessons and approaches to Latin, History, Writing, Reading, Music, and more have been passed along to us from our children’s college education. Our children are our mentors, and we are grateful.

The past 13-14 months here at Geneva has shown me more and more the wonder of God’s World and His good hand of providence in my life. What a joy to teach the upper grade students of the Logic and Rhetoric levels. I am more than privileged to be here! Each day brings discovery and engagement; there’s a joy of learning through language study, Latin, and through forums and discussions in Omnibus classes. My writing and music classes foster my own expression in written composition and vocalized song.

I will always look to God with thanksgiving and remember His kindness to me over the years. From Louisiana to Alaska to Maryland to Oregon—the crisscross coast to coast within the great USA and the learning along the way has been etched in my heart. Delighting in Tabasco sauce or Alaska winters, being a student in classes or pastoral work, taking part in home education or day-school education, and serving in the role as a student or as a teacher—all of it has been according to God’s good hand. I’m deeply thankful. God is so good. •

by Mr. Mark Sumpter

Logic is Human: Literature is Angelic by Martin Cothran

There is a sense in which literature transcends logic. Logic is limited in its access to truth by the Law of Noncontradiction:

Both “A” and “not A” cannot be true at the same time and in the same respect. Napoleon was the emperor of France or he was not; water is made of two hydrogen molecules and an oxygen molecule or it is not—in each case, both things cannot be true at the same time in the same way.

Logic is the tool of understanding, while poetics is the tool of vision. Logic indirectly brings your intellect into conformity with abstract truth. Poetics directly brings your whole soul—the intellect, will, and imagination—into contact with the concrete truth.

You can understand most things—nobility, sincerity, compassion, love—through the intellect, but such an understanding is incomplete. Through a strictly logical approach, you only see things, so to speak, from the outside. It never involves your whole being. But when you see these concepts in the actions of a character in a novel, it grabs all of you. You perceive it with the eye of your mind and the eye of your heart—in three dimensions. You see it from the inside rather than the outside.

But poetry (and by that word I mean what it has always traditionally meant—namely, literature in the broad sense) is not limited in this way. Poetry does not violate but transcends the laws of logic. In a story, something can be something and not be something at the same time. This is the whole power of symbolism and metaphor: one word, or one idea, or one character can be something that it is not—at the same time and in the same respect.

Logic is human; literature is angelic.

Logic is human because it requires us to go through a complex set of steps in order for us to find truth—a process our human nature requires us to go through. But literature is angelic since, like it was said to be to the angels, it is immediately and directly accessible.

Truth is immediately apprehensible through the literary object which is the thing it symbolizes.

Lewis' Aslan is not Christ, but he is; Tolkien's Galadriel is not Mary (or Eve), but she is; Fitzgerald's Gatsby is not the American dream, yet he is; Melville's Moby Dick is not nature itself (or God), but he is; Steinbeck's Pearl of the World is not mammon, but it is.

Even though it's not. •

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Upcoming Events for November:

Geneva is planning a float for the **Veterans Day Parade!** Next meeting is after school on 10/8. The theme is honoring veterans from Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Please contact Kristin Yraguen for more information! We'd love all the students to participate! Children on the float can be wearing desert camouflage. Walking students and parents may wear school uniforms.

More details to come! Watch for sign-up sheet & Facebook event.

- **Kristin Yraguen** 's email and phone number kjyarguen@gmail.com
home 541-673-5650, cell 541-784-889

"Connecting: Student Culture & Our Community"

Getting the word out about our school is absolutely vital! I am part of the marketing and enrollment committee here at Geneva. I help with a lot of our P.R. through our printed materials, press releases, web presence on social media and our website, as well as around town with our signs, banners and advertisements. I enjoy photographing & capturing student life here at Geneva because, as you might guess, I believe a picture is worth a thousand words! I have a few suggestions for families at Geneva that would greatly benefit the school.

FACEBOOK: Be active on our school facebook page (facebook.com/GenevaRoseburg) by LIKING, SHARING, TAGGING, and COMMENTING, as well as clicking JOIN to our events. When you do this, it shows up in your friends' news feeds and it helps our page activity which helps promote awareness that there is this little school called Geneva Academy that has a vibrant, lively, Jesus-following group of children!

CONNECT: There is a special community, a family of families so-to-speak, within this school. Visit with other parents, join the all-school Facebook group and the smaller ones for your student's grade level! It's a great place to ask for prayer, get clarification, shout out an SOS to get those lost spelling words! Start here: www.facebook.com/groups/GenevaRoseburg/

CHURCH: Ask your Pastor if your children and some of our other students could share on a Sunday morning -- perhaps a song or one of Mrs. Seiker's "JOGS" through various portions of the Bible. We have found that when Pastors know their littlest sheep are growing, excited, passionate learners at a Christ-centered school, they are more apt to open their doors, their time slots dedicated to "worship specials" than if our Headmaster calls to offer them. Your Pastor knows and loves your family. He and his staff and his body may have never encountered Geneva Academy and this is a creative way of sharing and reaching out in the faith community. When would this be especially vital? After the New Year when many families are looking at just a few months of the school-year left. I can help you coordinate with your church. Let us know if your Pastor is willing to let us share! And another thought: Ask your Pastor to coffee and invite him down to the school with you for a few minutes to peek into your children's classrooms, meet Mr. Turner, ask the students some questions, or even play four-square with the kids at recess!

BULLETIN BOARDS: Ask if you can hang up flyers, small posters or have a few school brochures handy at your Church bulletin center or in your break room or favorite store!

SNAPSHOTS: Did you take pictures in the classroom this week? Or on the most recent field trip? Send us your snapshots as you take them! These are images we can use for sharing Student Life at Geneva as well as building our yearbook! You can email them to GenevaYearbook@gmail.com or text them to me from your smartphone. 541-580-3612

EXTRA-CURRICULARS: We would love to share what our students are doing for enrichment after school! Do you have a child in soccer, dance, martial arts? Do you have a student who is part of the youth orchestra or takes piano or art classes? How about rock climbing, 4-H, or Awanas? Send me your snapshots of your kiddo doing their thing! Let's show how well-rounded our students are. They are pretty special, you know!

NEWSPAPER: There are opportunities for our students to WRITE or share ARTWORK in our area newspapers. Let me know if you would like to encourage your student to contribute a piece! I can photograph the artwork for you and submit the essay or artwork to the newspaper for you!

AmazonSmile: Raise money for the school when you shop at Amazon.com! Simply type this into your browser on each of your computers and enter *Geneva Academy of Roseburg* into the field for selecting your choice of charity! Then, each time you're shopping ensure that your browser window says smile.amazon.com!

<http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/change.html>

IDEAS: Let me know if you or your student have ideas for community outreach or community awareness! The school board and faculty at Geneva truly believes in partnering with parents in growing tomorrow's leaders -- your insight and family involvement is not only valuable, it's vital! •

by Kellie Trenkle, Geneva mother of 4

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GRAMMAR <i>Grades 1-6</i> Science, History Math, Latin Music, Art P.E.	LOGIC & RHETORIC <i>Grades 7-12</i> Math, Science Latin, Spanish, Logic, Rhetoric Aesthetics, Omnibus
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Geneva Events for October 2014:

- Oct. 1 – South Slough Field Trip (3-6)
- Oct. 8 – Picture Day, Chapel uniform for student. Don't forget to send order forms to school!
- Oct. 10 – Trip to the Lofrano farm, 2nd Grade; 8am-12pm, PE uniform, rain boots
- Oct. 13 – Columbus Day – no school
- Oct 13-18 – Rhetoric Aesthetics Field Trip to California
- Oct. 16 – Pumpkin Patch Field Trip (K & 1-2), PE day uniform, booster seats; rain boots and coats if needed, 9:00am
- Oct. 24 – Oregon Caves Field Trip (5-6)
- Oct. 31 – Reading Challenges begin (1-2)
- Oct. 31 – Reformation Day, school hours, parents are welcome to join students
- Attention Parents of younger Grammar Students – please remember to bring a car/booster seat for your child's field trip. Oregon Law requires that **children must use a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9"**. Safety is very important! Most 2nd graders and younger must use booster seats.

School and Teachers' Wish Lists:

- School is in need of 2 Digital Projectors.
- Miss Pam Harrison wishes for a TI-84 graphing calculator(s). She's already received 1 calculator!
- Second Grade needs following books - The Magic Tree house, Encyclopedia Brown, The Boxcar Children.
- Miss Laura Rowe wishes for a cabinet.
- Geneva Office is in need of a shredder.