



# The Minstrel

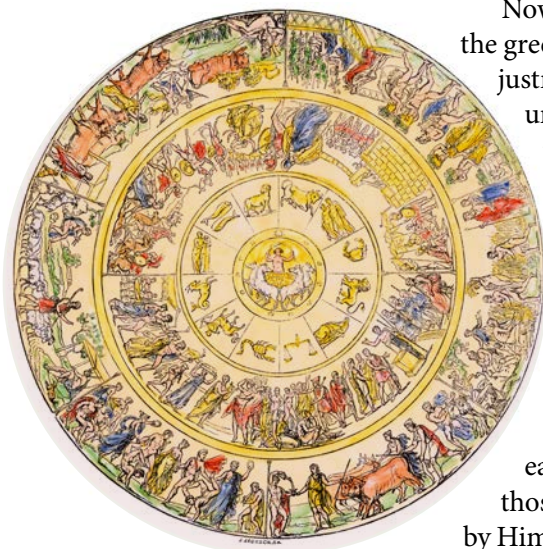
NEWSLETTER OF GREGORY THE GREAT ACADEMY

All Saints Day

Dear Friend,

We are moving into the second phase of our annual adventure here at Gregory the Great Academy. The first was, of course, the beginning of the year, when all was fresh and exciting for the boys, with new classes, new roommates, and new faces.

And now, concordant with the seasonal shift, we enter the second part, when all have (more or less) found their places and fallen into the rhythm of things. The boys have acquired the balanced steps that will march them through the rigors of the wintry third and hardest stage that yet lies ahead. It is always a good thing to see a new company enter into this dance, if you will, like the youths that dance around the bronze rim of Achilles's shield, pacing mankind's great dance around the whole world.



Now that the first part is past and fading away like the green from our campus, I marvel over how many adjustments and challenges our boys have faced and figured out already. For many, their whole life has changed, and it is incredible to witness how well these young men manage it all. The things these boys accomplish in their education here surely require a whole series of miracles, most of which pass unnoticed right before our eyes, like the sudden and subtle appearance of autumn's fiery foliage. It ranges between amusing and terrifying and comforting to think how many miracles, how many divine nudges, we all require to make it through our lives.

Our lives are miracles in and of themselves, of course, and the circling liturgical season of All Saints and All Souls draws us to that mystery of our place and purpose and the eternal salvation we can somehow earn in our short span here on earth. We turn with the will of God, like those dancers in the great wheel or world of Achilles's divine shield, protected by Him at every step or misstep, towards the fulfillment of something we all hope and pray will be pleasing to Him.

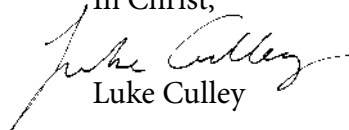
Your part in this dance is one of the miracles we are grateful for. How you came to share the life of our school is probably a mystery that you and I will never understand, but here we are together, engaged in a beautiful work that relies on our faith and friendship. Please keep up this glorious dance with us by remembering us and those who have passed on to the last and eternal dance in heaven. We rely on your place in the round.

I ask you to give a generous gift this fall so that we can continue to lead these boys onwards and upwards keeping time with the music that moves the stars. Thank you and God bless you.



Luke Culley  
Headmaster

In Christ,

  
Luke Culley



## You Answered the Call!

A call went out to our alumni and families this fall to rally together and help us tackle several major projects around the campus. The field in front of the school needed an overhaul to be suitable for the boys to practice and play on safely. The road to the main field had washed out after years under the harsh conditions of the Pocono winters. The main athletic field itself was suffering with a serious drainage problem often leading to unplayable conditions.

We are honored to announce that our community answered the call and donated over \$30,000 to make sure our athletics program had the suitable infrastructure to thrive. During this season of reflection on the Church Suffering and the Church Triumphant, we will also remember you stalwart members of the Church Militant who make our mission possible.



## Prayers for Cecilia Davidson

On September 17, 2021, Cecilia Davidson fell asleep in the Lord at 24 years of age in a tragic accident. She was the daughter of former faculty member Daniel Davidson and his wife, Margot. Her four brothers are alumni of the Academy. Cecilia had recently graduated from Thomas Aquinas College in California and was studying nursing at Baldwin-Wallace University in Ohio. Our community is united with the Davidson family in mourning the loss of this beautiful, kind, and bright young woman. Please join us as we pray for the repose of her soul during this season of holy remembrance. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.





# The Seven Ages of Man

Stained glass window, Mitchell Wing, State Library of New South Wales.

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;  
And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad  
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,  
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,  
In fair round belly with good capon lin'd,  
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances;  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;  
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion;  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.



*The Soldier*



*The Lover*



*The Justice*



*The School-boy*



*The Pantaloon*



*The Infant*



*The Second Childishness*

From William Shakespeare's "As You Like It," this famous passage meditates on the shifting stages of life, as proceeding from infancy, to the schoolchild, to the adolescent, to the youth, to the middle-aged, to the aged, and finally to dotage and dusty death. In these are captured the characters of age—the stages of life on the stage of the world, which stages come and go with entrances and exits in a vast, sweeping spectacle of temporal and eternal moment.

"The Seven Ages of Man" is one of the few poems worth knowing, one that got something done for all the ages, articulating for once and for all seven stages of human existence. It is definitive, surpassing the finite nature of its maker and becoming an eternal standard set in the cosmos of human creation. It is worth encountering again and again for whatever time may be left for the world and its revolving players—until all things are sans everything.

Until that time, all stages of life should be stages of delight finding expression in the art that gets at the essence of everything: poetry.



On October 9th, the seniors travelled down to Front Royal, VA to sing and juggle at our 2nd *Le Cochon Cotillion*, or as the locals call it, The Pig Ball. Over 300 guests came out to a scenic spot in the Shenandoah Valley to celebrate Gregory the Great Academy and enjoy an evening of friendship and festivity. The boys put on a rousing juggling show and the evening ended with traditional dances and songs which the whole crowd kept going late into the evening. Thank you to all who attended and all of the volunteers and sponsors who made *Le Cochon* an incredible success!

## Now Accepting Applications!



We are currently accepting applications for the 2022-23 school year. Do you or someone you know have a son who would benefit from an adventurous education in the Good, the True, and the Beautiful? Please email our Admissions Director, Karen Beebe at [kbeebe@gregorythegreatacademy.org](mailto:kbeebe@gregorythegreatacademy.org) for a free informational catalog, or with any questions you might have about the application process. We look forward to hearing from you! Contact us today!