

McGinnis Woods Buzz



February 2017 Volume 11, Issue 5



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz . . .

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DATES TO REMEM-

2/17	Student/Staff Holiday After School Only
2/20	President's Day Student/Staff Holiday After School Only
2/21	Spelling Bee Reception 2:00pm
2/22	STEM Career Day PreK-3rd Winter Science 3:15pm
2/23	STEM Career Day
2/24	4th Grade Field Trip APEX Museum, King Center, King Home
2/27	2nd Grade Field Trip MLK Center and Mary Mac's Tea Room
2/27	Cheeseburger Bobby's Spirit Night 5:00-8:00pm
2/27	Discover Club Registration Due
2/28	1st Grade Field Trip Gwinnett Environmental Center 5th-8th Grade Field Trip to the Georgia Bar Association

McGinnis Woods Mission Statement

*Our mission is to provide
superior academics
through hands-on
approaches, which foster
self confidence and self
esteem that inspire a life-
long love of learning.*

A Message From Ms. Mary

February is one of my favorite months of each school year. During this time of year, the students have settled into a comfortable routine and tend to apply themselves and relish the opportunity to broaden their minds and work with those around them. They also approach each day with a level of confidence and comfort which I am always so pleased to see. The teachers are able to draw the most out of each of the students as they have really gotten to know their strengths and weaknesses and have learned when to coax, when to push and, of course, when to celebrate their accomplishments both large and small.



February also brings the Valentine's Dance which is one of my favorite PA events each year. This past Saturday was a real joy as we enjoyed one another's company, ate great food, bid on auction items and danced the night away with the ever popular Mr. Melvin at a beautiful new venue at the Polo Golf and Country Club. The night was quite special. I hope you were able to join us for the wonderful night.

Today we enjoyed a special concert celebrating Valentine's Day, President's Day and America. Ms. Caryl and the students helped us focus on the reason that there will be no PreK4-8th grade classes on Monday, February 20....Our country's founding fathers' birthdays!

We hope that you will be able to join us at Cheeseburger Bobby's on 141 on Monday February 27 for a McGinnis Woods Spirit Night. This is a super easy way to support our school and have fun getting to know other families at the same time.

We hope to see you there,
Ms. Mary

Parent Association Update



It is hard to believe how quickly this school year has gone and that we're already in the middle of February. It has been an exciting year so far with even more fun in store! Our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes hosted the Teacher luncheon at the end of January and they did a fantastic job! We can never say "Thank You!" enough to our incredible teachers and staff for all they do for our kids every single day!

Just last weekend we got our groove on at the Annual Valentine's Dance. We had one of our largest turn outs ever and were very excited to be at a brand new venue. The evening was filled with food, dancing, prizes, teacher auctions and, most importantly, lots of laughing and smiling. We hope that you had an amazing time and thank you to all of our families for spending your Saturday evening with us! A special thank you to our wonderful teachers for their contributions to the teacher raffle. We know the children will have an amazing time enjoying all the special activities you put together!

March is quickly approaching which means that Teacher Appreciation Week and the Dance-A-Thon are just around the corner. Teacher Appreciation Week is one of the most exciting and special weeks of the year. It is a week set aside annually to honor the amazing teachers and staff at McGinnis Woods who give of themselves to inspire and encourage our students each and every day. Each Teacher Appreciation Week is centered around a theme that lets our teachers and staff know just how special they truly are! We have a very special theme planned this year but...shhh....it's a secret!

During the week, teachers and staff are treated to a special lunch, a dessert day, a class gift and the chance to win raffle prizes. All raffle tickets are purchased by students in honor of their favorite teachers and staff. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help us with Teacher Appreciation Week activities and decorations, so we will be reaching out to those of you who expressed an interest at the beginning of this school year. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon with all of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you for any help you can offer to make this a very special week for the McGinnis Woods team.

We will also have our second annual Dance-A-Thon just before spring break. Everyone had so much fun last year and we can't wait to see what kinds of crazy dance moves are unleashed this time around. Stay tuned for more information and thank you in advance for all the amazing support we know you'll provide!

Thanks again for such a phenomenal start to 2017 and we will see you soon!

Your PA Board



Preschool Corner



February is a busy time in the Preschool. The children have been learning lessons around the themes of Healthy Hearts and Healthy Bodies and how to care for them. They have had fun hearing their hearts beat and feeling their own pulses. Some of the little ones had a taste test of healthy foods and talked about how important it is to have a balanced diet. All of the children have been exercising and learning about their muscles, too. The toddlers learned how to make healthy smoothies, and had fun trying to brush their teeth with toothbrushes to protect them from unwanted sugar and cavities. A dentist will be coming for a visit during the week of February 20 to teach us more about Dental Health Month.

Each of the preschool classes celebrated Valentine's Day with a card exchange and small party. The children loved making their valentine bags or boxes and thought it was fun to celebrate love. Many parents provided treats for the parties and were able to stop by and join in on the fun.

During the remainder of the month we will talk about Black History and how important it is for the children to treat everyone with respect and kindness. We will end the month learning about Spring, as we hope it will be here to stay soon!

As always, be sure to stop in and visit your child's class and learn about the many exciting activities that happen there each day!



Wildcat Chat Winter Sports

Basketball Season 2016-17



Our basketball season has come to an end. Our boys and our girls had a challenging, but fun season. We played in two conferences this year, the MAAC and NAML. This gave us the opportunity to play a lot of games. We were fortunate enough to play the majority of our games at home where our fans could cheer us on! Our competition varied a great deal as we played big schools, small schools, young players and players a lot older. Our Wildcats stood up to all the challenges they were presented this season.

Our boys had a very young team made up of mostly 5th graders. They were sometimes playing 8th graders! They did great and they improved a great deal over the season. Coach Chason really focused on good sportsmanship and playing as a team. The improvement over the season was phenomenal. The boys claim to fame for the season was beating Atlanta Academy not once, but twice! Thank you Coach Chason for a great season!

Our girls' A team had a team full of 8th graders with a couple of 6th graders sprinkled into the mix. Our girls' B team was full of 5th graders! We look forward to watching them develop as a team over the next couple of years. They had fun, worked hard and enjoyed playing together. Coach Xavier made practice fun yet challenging and the girls improved over the season. We honored our eighth grade girls in their last home game. Our eighth graders were Kate Poag, Tori Kershaw, Maggie Beguiristain, Madison Aber, Emily Delk, Emma Guy, Tayler Evangelista, and Alberta Pagliotti they will all be missed! The girls made it to the semifinals in the MAAC conference where they lost to Faith Lutheran. It was a great game and our girls fought hard to the end! A big thank you to Coach Xavier for a great season!



We are ended our season with a party of course! Pizza, games and cupcakes ended a great season for our basketball Wildcats!

Now on to Spring Sports!

We will be participating in Tennis and Track and Field this spring. Coach Kammy will once again coach our tennis players along with Mrs. Lisa. Furthermore, we will also have a pro teach drills and proper technique. Our Wildcats will play six matches against other schools in friendly competitions throughout the season. Our players will practice on the courts at Sharon Springs.

Track and Field will be coached by Coach Croom, Mr. Chris and Mr. Alden. Practice is held at school and we will occasionally practice at Fowler Park, so our students can run on a track. We have seven meets on the calendar and the MAAC Championship will take place on May 2nd. We will participate in field events and running events. We are looking forward to a great spring with our Wildcats!

Go Wildcats!

National School Choice Week

by Mr. Josh



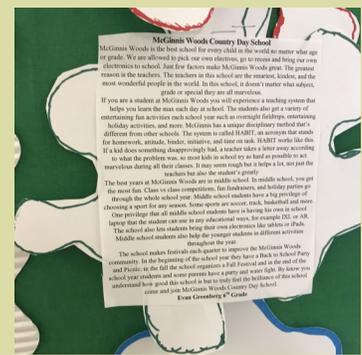
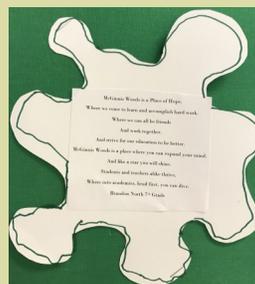
"Discover Your Education Adventure at The Woods" was our theme for National School Choice Week 2017 and, boy, did we have fun with it!

All around the school, quotes from students were posted by teachers. The Prek 4 and 5 teachers recorded quotes from the children that said why they LOVE McGinnis Woods, the elementary students shared how being at McGinnis Woods makes them FEEL, and the middle school students told us WHY they chose McGinnis Woods as their school of choice. It was great to hear the students' true thoughts and feelings regarding their "home away from home"!

We also had a daily "career choice" question for the children that we asked during our Morning Announcements broadcast. Each day's question had a theme: Math Monday, Scientific Tuesday, and so on. Every student in the school voted for one of the two choices each day by placing their name in "Bucket A" or "Bucket B". We then took the bucket with the most votes up to the broadcast room the next morning where we pulled five names from it live during the morning's Announcements. Those five people were called up to the broadcast room and were given a bright yellow National School Choice Week scarf on camera! High fashion, for sure!

Finally, we wrapped up the week with an electric Pep Rally! The Pep Rally included videos from the students, a fun McGinnis Woods trivia game (where the winners took home a NSCW scarf), and a "class cheer" from every classroom to show their adoration for our school!

National School Choice Week was a nice chance for all of our staff and students to take a step back and appreciate this little slice of educational heaven that we are a part of. You've got to love being a McGinnis Woods Wildcat... I know I do!



Kindergartners Visit Center for Puppetry Arts



On February 3, the kindergarten classes went on a field trip to the Center for Puppetry Arts. Upon arrival, the students attended a puppet workshop where they created their own lightning bug puppets. During the workshop, students learned the techniques needed to work a puppet and even had the opportunity to perform their own puppet show!

After the Workshop, the students saw *Mighty Bugs*. The colorful show was filled with amazing puppets and a fun story line. After the show the puppeteers came out onto the stage and offered a demonstration as to how the puppets worked and the elements that are involved in performing a show. The students really enjoyed seeing live theater come to life right before their eyes!



Parents' Night Out Fun

A wonderful group of students stayed with Ms. Jenn and Ms. Wendy for a spectacular Parents Night Out on February 3rd. Fun was had by all as the group played outside, created crafts, watched *The Secret Life of Pets*, and enjoyed dinner followed by ice cream sundaes.

The activities were based on a valentine theme. One of the favorite activities, enjoyed by all, was an estimating activity that had participants guessing how many candy hearts would fit into one large heart. Alex Jacowitz actually guessed the exact number, 114.



Junior Beta Club Lending a Smile and a Hand

Our Junior Beta teams have been working hard preparing for their first service trips of the New Year. The group working with the newly named assisted living facility, Morningside Assisted Living, made Valentines to deliver to residents on Monday, February 13th. They will also ran a BINGO game for residents which is always a hit and very special to each participant.

The members of the Furkids group plans to visit the pet shelter in March. They recently sponsored a Pet Drive to gather items the shelter is in need of and will be hosting an ice cream day on Wednesday, February 22nd to raise much needed funds for the animals. Students also made blankets for the pets in the shelter to make their stays a little more cozy.

At McGinnis Woods we love to provide our students with tangible ways to contribute to their community. Thank you for your support of our programs, as this makes our efforts effective and worthwhile!

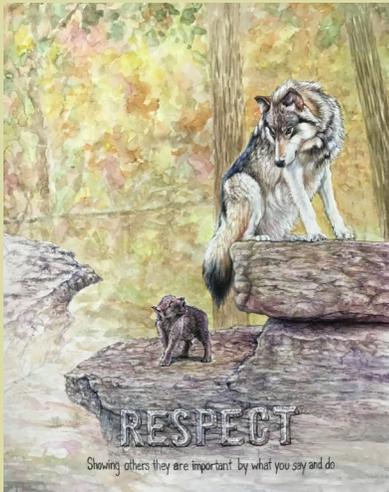


Candygrams Make Valentine's Day Special

The Student Council officers and representatives have met a lot during February. The members sent out and gathered order forms for the wildly popular candygram tradition. They also attached candy on hundreds of valentines during their recent meetings as they fulfilled orders for their annual fundraiser. The valentines will be delivered on Valentine's Day by the festive officers and are sure to spread many smiles and giggles.



Learning About Respect



During February our Big Idea has been all about respect. The definition we have focused on is *respect is showing others that they are important by what you say and do*. Each morning we share a thought for the day about the word of the month. One day we pondered this thought: “Kids don’t only need to show respect for adults in their lives. They also need to show respect to other kids. Sometimes you might not agree with another students about a topic, but you can show respect by listening to their point of view. It is important for members of a community to agree to disagree and do so respectfully.” This thought ties in so well with our focus on Positive Discipline and our weekly class meetings when the students try to solve class issues by hearing one another out and choosing a student designed solution as a class . This program is preparing our students to be problem solvers and leaders both for today and the future!

1st Graders Write to Veterans

Back in November, the 1st Grade Cats spent some time learning about Veteran's Day. The students learned many things about this holiday. We learned about the different military branches and that a veteran is someone who used to serve our country in the armed forces. Veteran's Day is when we thank them for service. To make a personal connection to Veteran's Day, we asked the parents to send in the names and addresses of veterans they may know in their families or friends. Then we worked on writing letters thanking these people for serving our country. We learned how to write a proper letter and then brainstormed ideas of things to ask or tell. Once everyone was finished writing we mailed them off. We recently received a reply back from Mike Kiphart who has connections to our first grader Marty Ho. He truly was touched by the thoughtful notes from the students.

“It was quite a surprise and pleasure to receive the letters from the children! The letters were well written and I enjoyed reading them. I was in the US Air Force and fought in the Vietnam Nam War in 1969. Being in the Air Force enabled me to see many different countries and peoples along with their different cultures. The war of course was no fun with many young men being injured or killed. (Women were not allowed in a battle zone back then). Being in the service caused us young kids to mature fast and become young adults.

Today, there are still a lot of young men and women in harms way over in the Middle East who could use everyone's prayers as they fight for freedom.

Thank you again for the letters. I was very impressed with the content written by each student. Please pass along my feelings and heartfelt thanks to the children.

Also Wendy, a personal thank you to you for teaching our young students about the importance of the history of the USA.”



Careers and STEM in "My World of Work" Days
Wednesday, February 22nd and Thursday, February 23rd
Volunteers Needed!



We are introducing our students to the World of Work! Most jobs today incorporate STEM fields, and our students when surveyed showed interest in a wide array of careers. We need your help! We are looking for volunteers to share about their careers and encourage possible future career choices. We would like for volunteers to share about their careers for 15-20 minutes and may include visuals, examples or activities that highlight your job and your journey to achieving your position.

We've already had a great number of parent volunteers respond! A Chemist, Software Designer, IT Manger, Strategy Consultant, Doctor, Biologist, Police Officer, and Architect are just some of the speakers we have coming!

Middle Schoolers to Visit the Georgia Bar Association



This month the middle school students will go on their annual field trip to the Georgia Bar Association in downtown Atlanta. The Georgia Bar Association has such a wonderful law program that the middle school has made a point of going each and every year to experience the different law lessons that they teach the students about and the have them simulate.

This year law lesson will be all about civil procedure. Civil procedure is the body of law that sets out the rules and standards that courts follow during civil lawsuits, as opposed to procedures in criminal law matters. Students will then participate in a mock trial.

This year's trial will be B.B. Wolf v. Curly Pig, in which Big Bad Wolf sues Curly Pig for damages for injuries he suffered while trying to come down Curly Pig's chimney. Several students will be able to participate in the trial as Pig's Attorney, Big Bad Wolf, the Plaintiff, Sylvester Cat, the Plaintiff's Witness, and as Miss Piggy, Defense Witness, just to name a few. The rest of the students will be jurors, and determine the outcome of the trial. We can't wait to experience this amazing learning opportunity!

Jump Rope Club Visits McGinnis Woods



Our students kicked off their jump rope unit with Dacula Elementary's Jump Rope Club performance. Bob Tucker, who is the sponsor of the club, travels with his club around Metro Atlanta to perform. We were fortunate enough to schedule their club to visit McGinnis Woods to show us how jump roping is really done!

The student performers are in 2nd grade through 5th grade. Each student had to try out for the club by performing basic and advance jump rope skills. The club practices once a week for 45 minutes before school on Fridays.

They will perform at schools and colleges throughout each school year. Currently they are preparing to perform at GA Tech during half time at a basketball game. They will perform for 5 minutes with a performance choreographed to music. We had the opportunity to see all the jump rope tricks they have been practicing during a 20 minute assembly. Our students were motivated by their skills and have accomplished some of the tricks themselves during their PE classes this week!



Coach Cynthia and Coach Chris Make PE fun and Safe



At McGinnis Woods we are fortunate to have two amazing coaches who work with our students and Wildcat athletes to teach them skills, good sportsmanship and recreational sports which they can be involved in as they continue to grow and mature. Coach Cynthia and Mr. Chris have formed a strong, positive partnership with all of their Physical Education students.

Coach Cynthia Croom has been teaching and coaching at McGinnis Woods for the past four years. She teaches physical education classes to the 3 year olds through the 8th grade. She is also the Athletic Director for all middle school sports where she enjoys coordinating and coaching different sports each season.

Cynthia graduated from the University of West Georgia where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education. She ran cross country and track in college and participated in all the intermural sports.

Coach Cynthia is married and has three children who all played sports throughout their childhood and into college. She and her husband, Mike, are now empty nesters, so she enjoys working with and watching all the students at McGinnis play their sports. She currently play tennis, attends a Bible study and loves to hike. Coach feels that her job is fun and she loves being at McGinnis Woods!

Mr. Chris Williams started working at McGinnis Woods in 2011 as a Jr. Camp Counselor and he has filled many different roles here at McGinnis Woods. He then had a great opportunity to become Coach Cynthia's assistant in physical education in 2015. He really enjoys coaching the students and watching them grow into young adults.

Mr. Chris recently graduated from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. This spring he will be helping coach the Wildcats in Track and Field and is confident that they will have a great season!

Valentine and Patriotic Concert

Our music students in kindergarten through 4th grade performed a wonderful concert on Thursday, February 16. The 4th graders created the backdrop and gathered props to bring two short skits they performed to life. The skits entitled, "Valentine's Mystery" and "Forever Learning" were fun and perky. The 4th graders then joined in with the younger students to sing all about President's Day and America.

The students wore red, white and blue and waved homemade flags while various narrators gave important facts about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, President's Day and the many freedoms we enjoy as Americans. They sang "President's Day", "Oh, I Love America", "March of the Wee Americans" and "American Ev'ry Day". The audience loved their enthusiastic renditions and were reminded of how special it is to be a member of this great land.



Summer Camp Fun is On the Way!



It may only be February but we are already looking forward to an exciting, Sunsational Summer here at McGinnis Woods! Our Sunsational Summer Camp is filled with exciting themes and field trips, caring counselors, STEM classes, daily water park and much more. We have many amazing art projects planned and special guest speakers scheduled throughout the summer to keep our minds learning.

We are visiting many sunsational places like Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo, Cumming Aquatic Center, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Art Barn and Get Air. We also offer many Specialty and Academic Camps that offer a variety of educational ways to sharpen your skills and expand your minds during the summer. Some of these exciting Camps include

several different culinary options, swimming, cheerleading, Jr. and Sr. Robotics, and many art options.

You do not want to miss out on any of the fun during our Sunsational Summer Camp and we hope to see you this summer! Brochures and registration information will be sent home on February 24.



Pictures from Around the School

