



McGinnis Woods Buzz

May 2017 Volume 11, Issue 6



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz . . .

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DATES TO REMEM-

5-29	Memorial Day McGinnis Woods Closed
5/30- 6/2	Summer Camp Kick Off: Surf's Up!
6/5- 6/9	Out of This World!
6/12- 6/16	Summer Fiesta
6/19- 6/23	Where the Wild Things Are
6/26- 6/30	Fun and Fitness
7/3- 7/7	Happy Birthday, America! McGinnis Woods Closed on July 3 OR July 4!
7/10- 7/14	Fun in the Sun
7/17- 7/21	Camp Gives Back
7/24- 7/28	Holiday Week
7/31- 8/4	Time Travelers!
8/5	Back to School Picnic!

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



Another school year has come to a close at McGinnis Woods, but not before many smiles were shared, tears were shed, memories were made and remarkable learning, growth and change took place. This year seemed to fly by and it especially accelerated as the end of April brought a fabulous book fair and the amazing production of Peter Pan!

Peter Pan has always been one of my childhood favorites, so I was thrilled to see Ms. Xylina, her set and prop designers, choreographers, make up artists, volunteers and our talented actors bring the show to life. Their production featured flying children, swashbuckling pirates, beautiful mermaids, Tiger Lily and friends, and a ticking crocodile reminding us of Hook and Pan's past meetings. The misty scenery transported us to another place and time... one filled with dreams and pixie dust and magic....nowadays, most of us adults call that Summer!

Summer is actually here and that means it's time for a change in our normal routines. A time to refresh, travel, spend sweet time with family and friends and relax. All of us at McGinnis Woods hope that this Summer will take you on remarkable adventures either at home or abroad. We hope to see you and your children during the break, maybe at our super fun Summer Camp which starts next week.

Enjoy each and every day of this special time of year, before you fly back to where you belong, here at McGinnis Woods!

Have a safe and happy summer,

Ms. Mary

Check out and like our Facebook page at McGinnis Woods Country Day School today!



Parent Association Update

PA Update May 2017:



The PA wrapped up the school year with a McGinnis Woods Matinee when the annual PA Water Day was rained out! What a fantastic year it has been! Congratulations to both you and your students on another great year in the “Woods!” Your Parent Association has worked hard throughout the year to assist our school in providing the best educational and social environment for our children. This year we sponsored fun events like the Valentine’s Dance and Scene on the

Green that celebrate our great sense of community and gave you an opportunity to build relationships with other McGinnis parents and our wonderful teachers and administrators. Additionally, we planned and sponsored several fundraisers throughout the school year to raise funds to supplement the school’s foundation with additional resources.

Your generous contributions and support of our fundraisers like the Fall Festival Basket Raffle, the extremely successful Dance-a-thon, our Kendra Scott event, and our partnership with Square One Art enable us to make purchases to improve our great school and further enrich our children’s experience at McGinnis Woods. Purchases made this year include a brand-new teacher’s lounge, interactive white boards for our classrooms, an interactive table for our STEM room, new tablets, microscopes and slides, graphing calculators, robots, solar kits, coding software, and ergonomic stools designed to keep even our most fidgety little ones comfortable in their classrooms. We have plans to further bolster the school’s technology, update our sports uniforms, obtain additional professional development training for our fabulous teachers and are continuing to save towards the purchase of artificial turf for our preschool playgrounds. We could not have achieved any of this without that raffle tickets you bought at the Valentine’s Dance, or your family’s generous donation to our Dance-a-thon, or the purchase of your little one’s darling art from Square 1 Art and we are so grateful for your support. We would also like to extend a special thank you to all of the wonderful parent volunteers that gave their time and talents in assisting us this year. It was so wonderful to work alongside you to give back to the school we love so much.

We have already begun planning for next year and are always looking for new volunteers. Do you have an interest in learning more about the PA? Have you been wondering how to be more involved? Do you have great ideas that you think would make a difference? If so, we’d love to hear from you! Please drop us a note any time to pa@mcginniswoods.org! Have a wonderful summer. See you in the fall!



Fondly,

Your 2017 PA Board

Members:

Jaclyn Anderson
Julie Lambotte

Elysia Gallivan
Jacki Freeman

Jason Harper
Samantha Seitz

Rebecca Maume
Mary Johnson

Committees Chairs:

Jessica Marro, Square 1 Art

Colleen O’Toole, Get Movin’ Crew Dance-a-thon

Thank You to Our Fabulous Room Representatives. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Preschool Corner



How quickly the school year has come to an end! We are so glad you have chosen The Preschool at McGinnis Woods for your child's introduction to learning, as it has been a wonderful school year with lots of fun and learning. The children are growing by leaps and bounds and we are very proud of their many accomplishments. Progress reports were sent home recently so be sure to check your child's folder for them. If you are interested in setting up a conference to discuss the reports with your child's teacher, please be sure to speak with them to set a convenient time.

We are looking forward to a great summer with all of our friends! While our academic structure will remain the same over the summer, we still want our little ones to experience summer fun! We have developed a summer outline of entertaining activities which we will be doing this summer. Copies have been sent home, but you can always pick up another at the front desk of the Preschool.



Do You Know What Metamorphosis Means? Our Pre-K Students Do!



The day that the caterpillars arrived in Pre-K the children were so excited! Each of the classes was learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly. They learned that a butterfly lays an egg on a leaf, a caterpillar comes out of an egg, the caterpillar makes a chrysalis, and out of the chrysalis comes a butterfly. It was amazing for the students to see first hand how much a caterpillar grows! They were so tiny when they arrived and the caterpillars grew ten times their original size by the time they were ready to spin a chrysalis.

The children were eager to see the metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly. They patiently waited for an entire week! When we returned to school after a long weekend of suspense, the butterflies had emerged from the chrysalis! The children were ecstatic. After observing the butterflies for a time, we decided that we would release them at recess the next day. All of the Pre-K sat in a circle to observe the butterflies one last time before saying goodbye to our newly emerged friends. Ms. Lisa unzipped the butterfly's temporary habitat and the butterflies slowly came out one by one and happily flew away to explore their new world!

Wildcat Chat

Spring 2017



What a great spring sports season we had at McGinnis Woods this year! We participated in Track and Field and Tennis. We had 19 students participate in Track and Field and 10 students participated in Tennis. Alden Watson and Coach Chris coached the Track and Field team this spring and the students really improved over the season. Coach Alden had a real talent for discovering new talents within our athletes. We had students participate in events that were out of their comfort zone and our athletes learned that they can compete in events they didn't think they could ever do! It was fun to watch our athletes try new events and compete to win! We had one school record broken this year in the shot put. Tayler Evangelista threw a 24'5" at the MAAC Championship to break her own record she had made earlier in the season. Way to go Tayler!

Tennis this year was a lot of fun! We participated in a number of matches and improved throughout the season! Coach Kammy and Coach Lisa worked with our athletes on the courts as they practiced skills they learned from their tennis pro workshops this season. It was fun to watch our athletes in the matches as they demonstrated their new tennis skills. Tennis is a lifelong sport and it is great that our McGinnis Woods Wildcats had the opportunity to learn to love the game.

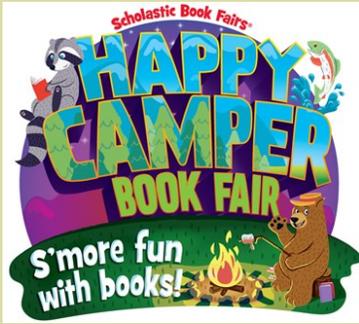


We celebrated all of the coaches and athletes at our Sports Banquet held on Thursday, May 18. The Banquet, organized by Ms. Sam and Kaitlin Marro, was a fun way to recognize our many athletes and their commitment to their sports and their teammates. Medals, trophies and wonderful words of encouragement were shared with those in attendance during the event. Tori Kershaw was recognized with the coveted Athlete of the Year award for her years of playing middle school sports each and every season, her level of commitment, skills and play and her exemplary sportsmanship.

Thank you to the amazing coaches who gave of their time this year to better our athletes and teach them important life skills along the way.



The Book Fair Made for Many Happy Campers!



We had a camping good time at our recent Scholastic Book Fair. There were so many awesome titles for all ages. Students were constantly searching for s'more titles to add to their book fair wish lists and summer reading titles.

Many of our Pre-K students were mesmerized by the Marvel and Disney Tsum Tsum books. Of course, our Kindergarten through Fourth grade students found their favorites including Geronimo Stilton, My Little Pony, Magic Tree House, I Survived and so many more.



Our middle school students were happy to find their own special teen section dedicated to their reading interests and containing books with them in mind! Those fascinating reads were flying off the shelves!



Thank you for your continued support with our Scholastic Book Fair. Books were purchased for every classroom. Class sets were also purchased for grade level reading groups and were enjoyed by the teachers and students during the final weeks of the school year. We are truly appreciative for your support and wish you a wonderful summer! Don't forget to keep reading!

Community Helpers Make a Career Visit



On May 1st several Forsyth County community service members braved the rain to visit with our students. Students in grades Pre-K through second grade met some modern day heroes, otherwise known as firefighters and police officers. The students learned all about their equipment, fire safety, and the role that fire fighters and police officers play in the community.

The students loved sitting in the fire truck and hearing how the sirens sound and the lights look when they are called away on a call. They each received a fire hat and stickers to round out their informative visit with the community helpers.



Wildcat Cup Winners!

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Middle School began competing in the *Wildcat Cup* which was designed with the House Cup, of Harry Potter fame, in mind. All of the middle school students were separated into houses based on their homerooms. Individuals or entire teams could earn points for their houses in the areas of academics, the Arts, athletics and character. The points were placed in their team cups which were a visual reminder to make great choices and encourage others. The points were updated weekly and at the end of our inaugural year, the points are as follows:

Seahorses – 223 points

Stars – 184 points

Dragons - 243 points

Frogs – 259 points

The 7th and 8th Grade Frogs were the winners of the Wildcat Cup and will have bragging rights, as well as a flag displayed in the place of honor until a new cup winner is declared at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Plans are already in the works to make the Wildcat Cup an even bigger and better competition for our students next school year!



Field Day Fun!



Field Day is always a favorite around McGinnis Woods. The themes and activities planned by Coach Cynthia and Coach Chris are so much fun and bring smiles to all of the students' faces.

This year the PreK-4th grade Field Day was designed around a Luau theme. The students traveled from station to station playing activities such as water relays, hula hoops, coconut hockey and tug of war. The 4th graders had their own Harry Potter themed activities including quidditch, volleyball and capture the golden snitch.

The 5-8th graders beat the rain with their Field Day which was held at Fowler Park on Monday, May 22. They played many of the same games that the 4th graders had played earlier in the month. Additionally, they held a water balloon toss, played both dodgeball and kickball to keep them busy.



Overnights Help Learning Come Alive!

Each year the students at McGinnis Woods look forward to specific overnight trips to cap off their school year. This year was no exception and the students and their families or chaperones learned many new things and had wonderful tales to tell and memories to share after their trips.

The first graders spent the night at Zoo Atlanta and toured the exhibits at dusk, met some of the smaller animals in a hands on visit, and learned all about the kitchens where the food for the animals is prepared.



The 2nd graders had a great time at DeSoto Caverns, learned all about the significance of the caverns along with new vocabulary like stalactites and stalagmites and then slept in the cave!



The 3rd grade headed to Chattanooga, Tennessee to visit the zoo and Aquarium to Sleep in the Deep. They started their day at the Chattanooga Zoo visiting a variety of animals, riding camels, circumventing the zoo via train and cooling down on the indoor carousel. They then watched the IMAX, Engineering Our World, which was so inspiring that all of the students and adults wished they could be engineers, too! The students and their parents got up close and personal with sting rays, baby tiger sharks and explored the new lemur exhibit. The group had the whole aquarium to themselves along with their guides. Now that is learning at its best!



The 4th graders spent a few days at Nature's Classroom in Mentone Alabama and learned all about how to survive in the wilderness, how to build a bridge out of rope, and how to navigate through some cool rock formations. They enjoyed their time in the out of doors and hope to visit again in the future.



The 5-7th graders enjoyed their time at Patriots Point in Charleston, South Carolina and explored and slept on the USS Yorktown. They enjoyed learning about the inner workings of an aircraft carrier and the surrounding environment at Patriots Point. Students learned about the vital marine ecosystems and American History all while "Walking in the Steps of Heroes."



time in DC.

Many of the 8th graders headed to Washington DC with Ms. Nicole and the Close Up organization which hosts students from across the nation as they learn about our great democracy and the way it works. The students visited many monuments, memorials, museums, the National Archives, the Library of Congress and Congress. They ended their time in DC with a tour of Fords Theater. The girls made new friends with students from across the nation and really loved their



Sumo Bots



During the spring semester, the WildBots worked on building and programming SumoBots. There are many ways to design and program a sumobot and our students did an amazing job creating theirs. Usually a robot of this type starts with a light sensor as a key element and then the sky is the limit.

In a robot Sumo match, two robots start inside a ring marked with a border of a contrasting color and try to be the first one to push the other robot outside the ring. The robots are disqualified if they accidentally drive outside the ring themselves. This creative competition is similar in fashion and modeled after actual Sumo wrestling.



The SumoBots competition was a great success and the students are excited about an opportunity to build new robots next year!

Annual Talent Show Was Fantastic!



The Student Council, along with the guidance of Ms Jenn, planned and hosted an end of the year celebration of student talents. The annual talent show was held on May 16th for the entire student body, parents and friends. There were many incredible acts showcasing talents such as dancing, singing, comedy, playing several musical instruments, and puppet shows. The audience was amazed by all the unique things the students could do and found each act to be entertaining in its own way!

May is also a time for us to thank our class representatives for their service and commitment with an appreciation breakfast. We so appreciate the way they brought their ideas to life and spread joy to the teachers, staff and students throughout the year.

If your student would like to get involved with the Student Council, new student council officers will be elected in the fall and new representatives will be chosen too.



Jr. Beta Club Gives Back



We had a very busy few months. One group of our 6-8th graders was able to visit with the residents at Morningside of Alpharetta, an assisted living facility that we have been visiting for three years. The students passed out treats to the residents and facilitated several games of BINGO. The relationships the students have made have touched the lives of all.

Our 6-8th graders supporting Furkids made a visit to the shelter as well. They donated the pet drive items they had collected and a \$200 check. There were some renovations at the shelter so the students received training in dog

walking and were able to socialize several dogs, including a litter of puppies! We look forward to visiting again soon and appreciate all who donated to our cause.

The 5th grade Jr. Beta Club students held a bake sale to benefit our school community. It is always nice to have a sweet treat and the sale was a huge success. Also, seven of the 5th grade Jr. Beta Club students met at Meals by Grace earlier this year to help families in our community. They assisted with making laundry detergent and assembling care packages for 250 families. If you are interested in volunteering with your family, Meals by Grace and Furkids are amazing organizations that love to get kids involved. Please visit their websites to get more information and volunteer as a family this summer. You'll be happy you did!



Science Olympiad Update



The McGinnis Woods Science Olympiad Team wrapped up another exciting year! Twenty team members, ranging from 3rd to 5th graders, along with Ms. Anne, Ms. Lindsey and Ms. Melisa, participated during the school year. The team competed in a qualifying tournament, where they placed 5th overall. Some of their top events this year were: Starry, Starry Night, The 24 Game, Bridge Building, and Weather or Not.

Although the team did not take the top prize, the students “won” in ways less tangible, but just as important. They gained confidence, learned about teamwork and sportsmanship, and how to persist and be diligent. They learned how to face challenges head-on and collaborate. Ms Anne, the Science Olympiad coach said, “It has been my great pleasure to work with these dedicated students and I look forward to leading next year’s team!”

Thank you to the parents for supporting the program and making the meetings a priority for their students. We are looking to expand the program next year, so if you love Science and would like to work with some bright, energetic thinkers, please let Ms. Anne know at aaviles@mcginniswoods.org.



Congratulations 2017 Graduates!

It was a bittersweet moment when we had to say goodbye to our 8th grade graduates, but we know that they are entering a new and exciting chapter in their lives. This year we said goodbye to thirteen amazing students. Some of these students started as infants in the Preschool at McGinnis Woods, while others joined as Kindergarteners or more recently as additions to our middle school.

Amongst these students, we have had several involved in Beta Club, Student Council, Spelling Bee competitions, Yearbook, Robotics and Drama. Many of the students have also served as student ambassadors and on the middle school social committee. This group of dedicated students was also very involved in the middle school sports program at McGinnis Woods. Out of thirteen graduates, we had three Cross Country athletes, six Tennis players, six Soccer players, eight Volleyball players, nine Track and Field athletes, and ten Basketball players!

When asked what they will remember most about their time at McGinnis Woods, the students mentioned overnights like the USS Yorktown, Space Camp and Washington DC. Others mentioned school events like track meets, talent shows and Scene on the Green. Each of the students will take with them memories of making new, cherished friends, talking and playing on the playground, trying new things, and growing into intellectual young adults. We wish them the best of luck in the future and know that they will be sorely missed.

Our 2017 Graduates:

Madison Aber - Central High school
Maggie Beguiristain – Undecided
Joshua Chisolm – Fulton Science Academy
Emily Delk – Wesleyan
Tayler Evangelista – Blessed Trinity
Emma Guy – Cambridge High school
Tori Kershaw – River Ridge High school
Andrew Krause – Fulton Science Academy
Kaitlin Marro – West Forsyth High school
Alberta Pagliotti – South Forsyth High school
Cristian Paris – Johns Creek High school
Kate Poag – Notre Dame Academy
Hank Royal – South Forsyth High school



The Event of the Season: The Q and U Wedding!



A popular PreK tradition at the Woods, is to send off all the letter people, the basis of our PreK curriculum, with an exquisite Q and U Wedding. Attendees and their guests gathered in the gym on Friday, May 19 to witness the “wedding” of the happy couples.

The Pre-K students, dressed as their favorite letters from the Land of the Letter People, vowed to always work together to help Q and U make beautiful words. A lovely reception of cake and lemonade was enjoyed at the conclusion of the ceremony and pictures. The Pre-K teachers truly appreciated all the support and time the families spent on creating the fabulous realistic outfits. What a wonderful way to end a fun and engaging year of learning with a memory to last a lifetime!



Summer Camp Fun Starts Tuesday, May 30!



Can you believe that Summer Camp starts next week on Tuesday, May 30? 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 are available at www.mcginiswoods.org or at the school.



Pictures from Around the School

