

McGinnis Woods Buzz



April 2012, Volume 3, Issue 8



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

4/30-5/6:	Screen Free Week Challenge (Turn TV Off)
5/19:	Screen on the Green 6:30 p.m.
5/21:	Field Day 9:00 a.m.
5/23:	Annual Awards Day 9:00 a.m.
5/24:	End 2011-2012 Term 4 Last Day of School
5/28:	Memorial Day School Closed
5/29	First Day of Summer Wildcat Camps Begin

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 lifelong love of learning.

The latest buzz...

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A Message From Ms. Mary

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of April. Where has this year gone? Many special activities including Earth Week and Career Day have taken place at our school these past few weeks. They are highlighted in this edition of McGinnis Woods Buzz.

We are very proud of all of our students at our school. We have much to celebrate as we watch them learn and grow. Our students in 1st-8th recently took their Stanford 10 Series of tests. The results are in and have been sent home. If you have specific questions about the test results, please be sure to contact your student's classroom teacher.



Our Track and Field team had a great showing at the recent championships at Galloway. We are very proud of all of the hard work and effort put forth by the students, Coach Fairbanks, Ms. Sonia and Ms. Lyndsey.

A few of our students were honored at the Capitol Building in a ceremony recognizing their wonderful artwork. Ms. Elise and parents were present to celebrate this accomplishment with our artists. Be sure to read about the wonderful surprise that each of the students received!

Thanks for allowing us to be part of your student's lives. We enjoy each and every day with our young protégés and enjoy celebrating their many successes! We have much to be thankful for and look forward to the month of May as we wrap up another great year.

Wildcat Chat

TRACK TEAMS FINISH STRONG AT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS!

The Wildcat Track teams completed their seasons on a high note. With records being broken and points being scored, the Wildcats really showed what hard work can accomplish at the MAAC Track & Field Championships.

Girls Team Report:

The Girls Team finished 5th over-all in a meet of 10 teams. This placing was fully unexpected, as the girls pulled it all out for the Championships.



High scorer for the team was Courtney Stuart, placing in the pole vault, 1600, 3200 and both relays. She had plenty of back up from Katherine Gall, who earned 3 medals from 4 PR's during the meet. The biggest surprise came from 6th grader Maddie Moore. She place 4th in the high jump and ran in both relays.

Some more points were had by Kasey Baker (300H) and Maansi Gupta (800, 1600, both relays).

Look for this team to push into the top 3 teams at next year's championships.

Boys Team Report:

Boys finished in 3rd place, missing the Championship trophy by 4 points! The meet came down to the last event with the Wildcats standing in 2nd by 2 points. A school record effort in the 4x 400R, didn't propel the team to the top.



Although our high placing was the result of a true team effort, Ryan Field showed why he is the best athlete on the track. Ryan won three events and was part of two school record relay teams. Sam Zodock had a great meet scoring in 3 events and both relays. He was tops in the pole vault. Jason Son showed he is a top sprinter, placing second in both sprints.

Surprising performances were turned in by Steven Posmer in the 400 and 800. The biggest surprise came in the form of our hurdlers. Both Brad Dull and Joey Anzilotti came from nowhere to score for the team.

After-school and Summer Camp Director

Ms. Caylin Caruso grew up in the heart of Ann Arbor, Michigan and graduated from Eastern Michigan University. She is a local artist with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and many Art Fairs under her belt. Caylin taught Art and worked in schools as an after school coordinator and summer camp director for the past 9 years.

Caylin enjoys abstract art, reading great books and spending time with her boyfriend of four years, Patrick, and his five-year old daughter, Ivy. Ms. Caylin is excited about her new role as our Summer Camp Director!



PA Board Update

The outdoor classroom and fitness trail are coming together quickly. The trail has been blazed through the woods beyond the parking lot, and the floor of the outdoor classroom has been laid. Stairs down to the classroom, from the parking area, are being cut out and reinforced with stacked stone this week. This new area will further enhance our children's learning opportunities while expanding our campus. Upon project completion, we would like to invite the parents down for our grand opening. Please stay tuned for more information.



As promised, the Water Fight for all the classes will be held on May 10th and Luncheon for all the students who raised and collected \$5 per lap for the Fun Run fundraiser will be held at the Outdoor Classroom on May 14th during their lunch period. We are very excited about both events and can't wait to celebrate with all the students. Further information detailing both events will be sent home soon.



Summer is almost here and so is Screen on the Green! Join us, Saturday, May 19th at 6:30pm. There will be food, bingo, auctions, and of course a movie on the big screen. Flyers will be coming home soon, don't miss this end of year bash!

Annual Spring Carnival

Please join us tomorrow for our Annual Spring Carnival from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is the event of the spring so you will not want to miss the fun. There will be inflatables, pony rides, games, crafts and great food for all to enjoy!



Third Annual Student Earth Week

On Friday, April 20th McGinnis Woods' students brought their 3rd Annual Student Earth Week to a close with a guest speaker. Yet, this was no ordinary guest speaker. It was Petunia Garner™, Echo the Squirrel and Denise Carleton of Reaping Nature.

Reaping Nature Productions is an environmental program company that educates individuals about protecting the environment. They believe that everyone, especially young people, should have access to environmental information that will help improve their lives and the health of the planet.

Our program, I "Likel" to Recycle showed students the benefits of our continued recycling efforts.



Students certainly enjoyed the fun-loving and energetic Petunia Garner as she taught them songs about recycling and protecting the Earth.

Ms. Carleton quizzed students on their recycling knowledge with trivia games. Our new friend, Echo the Squirrel appeared in several recycling questions students answered. Everyone learned that recycling not only helps our planet, but also creates jobs.

At the end of the program, students and teachers alike were up dancing and singing the words to "I Likel to Recycle." Who knew helping our Earth would be so much fun!



Art Contest: "Life Behind the Cones and Barrels"

Yesterday, April 26th, the winners of the art contest, "Life Behind the Cones and Barrels", were presented art awards at the Georgia State Capitol building! At the ceremony each winner received a life size street sign with their name on it, a bag of goodies, and a \$25 check. This contest was devised to help make students and their families more aware of work zones on the roads and how to drive safely when near them. Officials from the Law Enforcement Division, the Georgia Public Division of Highway Safety, and the American Traffic Safety Services attended the ceremony and congratulated the students on their excellent work. The art awards were presented by Jeannie Powell of Crown Technology. This was quite an exciting event, Ms. Elise and the students look forward to participating in the contest again next year!

Contest Winners

K-1st:

1st Place Abigayle Presley

2nd Place Saanvi Mudpa

3rd Place Sana Patel

2nd-4th:

3rd Place Yongjae Yu

5th-6th:

2nd Maansi Gupta

3rd Will McCusker



Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

The Preschool is blooming! If you've visited us lately, you'll have noticed all sorts of new and growing things: new students, new classroom materials and supplies, new gardens, and new visitors! Recently, we had a visit from The Reptile Guy (see picture)! The students were able to see and interact with turtles, lizards, snakes and frogs, and learned quite a bit about these animals in the process. Many of our students were also visited by a pair of baby ducks while playing outside (thank you, Mrs. Lane!). Next month, we look forward to a visit from Mama Koku, a popular storyteller from the Atlanta area.



In May, we will begin our bi-annual written student assessment process. Don't be unnerved by the concept of assessing young children—it is actually quite common and extremely beneficial! While we perform written assessments and share results with parents twice per year, teachers assess children daily in order to meet their ever-changing needs. Learning about a child's skills in this structured way allows us to address his or her specific needs across all areas, and also informs decisions made about curriculum. Ms. Kate, our Curriculum Director, uses these assessments to make sure our students are on track toward our mission: *to inspire students with the passion to excel!*

MWCDS conducts assessments of student progress in a variety of ways: daily observation; anecdotal records; work samples; and skill and milestone checklists, in addition to the written assessments. We believe that taking a varied approach to assessment gives us the best picture of each child's skills and developmental progress in our curriculum.

Written assessments cover a variety of skill sets: social and emotional; cognitive/academic; work habits, and physical (including fine and gross motor). Children will be assessed within our school setting by their own classroom teachers to ensure as familiar and comfortable an environment as is possible.

Assessment results will be shared with you within two weeks of completion. Assessments are kept in your child's locked, confidential file at school.

If you have questions about your child's assessment, or about any aspect of our program, please stop by the front desk and see Ms. Michelle, Ms. Tonia, or Ms. Kate. We are here to make sure the lines of communication are open and that we are partnering together for your child's benefit.

National Gifted Program Seeks 2-8th Graders

Now through early spring, parents may enroll an 2nd-8th grade advanced learner in the 2012 CTY Talent Search. Doing so can open the door to CTY's testing, courses and services for gifted learners.

Participating helps you better know your child's abilities, and it can qualify students for CTY's courses and state academic awards ceremonies.

Learn more, and enroll your 2nd-8th grade child at www.cty.jhu.edu

Get Ready for Wildcat Summer Camp Adventures

Summer is almost here! We are excited to kick off this summer with new and exciting events at our Wildcat Adventures Summer Camp from May 29th to August 10th. We will be canoeing, tubing, horseback riding, bowling, rock climbing, and even visiting the brand new Geyser Tower at Stone Mountain! We are also offering specialty camps like swimming, robotics, sports sampler, golf, cooking, drama, karate and tennis.



Themed camps and art projects, group games and movement classes will be a part of our summer schedule as well! Your student may come for a week or attend the entire summer. We also have limited two day attendance available, so let us know your summer plans and sign up today. We are looking forward to a fabulous summer – let the adventure begin!

Outdoor Garden and Growums Plants

Each student in PreK4 – 8th has planted their own Growums plant at school. Many of those plants are now flourishing and are ready to be planted outside in raised beds in May. Our PreK and Middle Grades have planted Salad gardens, Kindergarten and First grades planted Herb Gardens, 2nd graders planted Stir Fry Garden plants, 3rd graders planted Taco Gardens and 4th graders have Ratatouille Gardens. The garden combines outdoor fun with a unique and exciting online educational experience. Kids registered their garden kits online at Growums.com. From there, they followed fun-loving Growums characters through a virtual garden world of delightfully animated step-by-step how-to videos that taught them how to grow and care for their vegetables and herbs, from seed to harvest.

Gardens offer such an entertaining and interactive learning platform. What's more, they encourage eating healthy foods - a vital concern for parents everywhere, as our country continues the fight against childhood obesity. We are committed to helping children discover the joys and benefits of growing their own vegetables and herbs. Students will be able to take care of the garden and watch the plants grow. Summer campers will continue to care for the plants and hopefully be able to harvest some of the summer vegetables this year.

We are excited to be able to have our outdoor gardens in addition to the wonderfully enhanced outdoor classroom and trail. The classroom has pavers, additional seating and new steps for easy access. We cannot wait to use it!

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Spring Musical

Join our K-2nd graders as they take over the stage like Spiders, Hook Worms, Snakes and a host of wiggly, squiggly critters. But wait! No need to scream...just listen carefully and learn how the things that make us squirm can be A-OK! Don't be late, because the show takes place May 1st at 6pm at Lord of Life Church.

"Get up, Get up, Get up... It's time to move, it's time to move!" That's what the 3rd grade Dogs have been singing in music. This semester has been full of motivational songs and artists who have contributed to shaping the face of music. Join us May 15th at 8:45am for their music review, and see how quickly they make you want to "*Get up*" out of your seat.

Annual Career Day

McGinnis Woods hosted its annual Career Day on Wednesday, April 25th. The students were given an opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers about their careers. Our volunteers shared their career journeys, their day to day responsibilities and the requirements needed to work in their chosen field. We were lucky to have many unique careers represented including an assistant director, a firefighter, and a recruiter. The fourth graders will be meeting their Career Day speakers next week since they were away on their overnight trip to Nature's Classroom.



We would like to thank the following volunteers for inspiring our students through their donation of time:

Deputy Kevin Ferraro, Forsyth County Police Department

John Kenna, Owner, Water, Color, Stone Inc.

Bucky Smith, Gwinnett County Firefighter

Keith McCallar, Ply Gem Regional Sales Manager

Karl Edwards, Honeywell Sales Executive

Adam Lederer, Recruiting Manager

Kevin Smith, Keep Forsyth Beautiful

Tron Stamper, Falcons Player Development

Kim Baker, HP Software Sales Manager

Tony Moore, CEO of JobTopia

Lars VanVossen, Foreign Exchange Student

Branigan Mincey, Bodyplex General Manager/Trainer

Bhushan Dommeti, IT Professional

Jay Darji, Doctor

Debbie Cobb, Physical Therapist

Nicole Cohn, Vice-President of Franchise Restaurant

Georgette Graves-Innis, Lawyer

Jason Roberts, Assistant Director



New McGinnis Woods Sign

Have you noticed our new McGinnis Woods sign on McGinnis Ferry Road? We are so excited to have this new monument sign heralding the location of our school. The finished sign will also include colorful plantings and lights. We will be moving our wooden sign to the Christopher Robin entrance which we hope to be able to use sometime in the near future.

