

McGinnis Woods Buzz



December 2012, Volume 4, Issue 2



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz...

Message From Ms. Mary.....1	B.E.T.A. Club.....4	Preschool Corner8
Wildcat Chat.....2	Robotics.....5	Winter Science.....8
Bodyology.....2	Digger Dog.....5	Enrichment Notes.....9
Winter Concerts.....3	Featured Team.....6	A 5th Graders Big Dreams....9
Musik 21.....3	Parent Association.....7	Winter Break Info.....10
1800's Day.....4	Etiquette Club.....8	Camp Info & Previews.....10

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/20 —1/4	No School—Winter Break—After School Only (School closed 12/24, 25 and 1/1)
1/7	Classes Resume
1/8— 1/11	Spelling Bees PreK—8th
1/14	Discovery Clubs Begin
	MLK Holiday
1/21	No School—After School Only
1/28	Box Tops and Hawks Reading Logs Due

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.

A Message From Ms. Mary

The first semester of the 2012-13 school year has flown by. We are having an excellent year and the children are transforming before our very eyes as they learn and grow at an amazing pace. We are so proud of all of their accomplishments and their continued zest for learning!

This issue of the McGinnis Woods Buzz is packed with interesting information about recent events and activities taking place here at school. We hope that you will take a few minutes to read about our dedicated teachers and the students they teach and care for every day.



I want to thank you for your participation in our annual North Fulton Community Holiday Giving tree. Once again this year our school community worked together to assist nine families who will have a wonderful holiday season due to your generosity. Our word of the month is Compassion: *caring enough to do something about someone else's need* and through our giving tree we have shown our students what true compassion looks like. It is our hope that the students will be inspired to show their compassion toward others throughout their lifetime.

Each holiday season seems to help us to mentally pause and refocus on what really matters in life: relations friends and faith. It is our hope that you will be able to slow down during the Winter Break to spend meaningful time with family and friends, recounting your many blessing and creating wonderful memories to last a lifetime.

McGinnis Woods will host a Winter Break Camp at the school over the break. We will resume classes for students on Monday, January 7, 2013.

On behalf of our staff and Administration, we wish you Happy Holidays and a fabulous New Year!

Ms. Mary

Wildcat Chat

Wildcat Basketball Teams start the season strong!

Our teams have been very competitive and the students are improving their skills and strategies with each and every practice and competition. The coaches are optimistic about the season and January looks like a good month for the teams.

Girls A-Team

The Girls have lost two heart breakers so far. Unbelievably, they have been out scored on the last shot, at the buzzer, in two straight games! Our last game at Torah Day School wasn't as close, but the girls continue to improve and should hit their stride soon. We are expecting some wins! Record: 1-3

Girls B-Team

The Girls B-Team started their season with a loss to Atlanta Academy. Their next game was at Torah Day School and the team made history. The girls won 18-10 to become the first B-Team, boys or girls, to win a game for the Wildcats. They also set a scoring record with 18 points. Vivian Longo scored 12 points in that game which was also a scoring record. Record: 1-1

Boys A-Team

The Boys A-Team is experiencing a rebuilding year. The good news is that the players are giving solid performances all around. The games that they have played have been close and significant improvements are being made along the way. Record: 0-3

Boys B-Team

It is hard to tell how the team will do after one game, but they have played hard both at home and on the road. Their next two games will tell us a lot. Look here for updates and results. Record: 0-1

Slim Goodbody



The second and third grade students recently enjoyed an informative in-house visit from *Slim Goodbody*. Slim came to McGinnis Woods and led the students through an interactive production featuring body systems, healthy eating and exercise. *Slim Goodbody* wears a unique bodysuit which actually shows all of a person's organs, many of the tendons and bones. The show includes cool music, crazy graphics, songs and group activities which simulate certain body functions such as the circulatory system and the beat-

ing of a healthy heart. The main focus of the program is living a healthy lifestyle. As *Slim* says, "Take good care of your body since it's the only one you've got and you can't call in for an upgrade!"

Here are a few quotes from students following the show:

"Bodyology Rocked! I liked learning all about the body and the different songs we sang." Sameera 2F

"I liked the videos, dancing, and singing that we were able to do." Marian 2L

I loved the Bodyology speaker because we were able to watch a cool show and the performer was very funny!" Kristen 2L



Band Concert



The McGinnis Woods School Band Concert was held on Thursday, December 13, 2012. The beginning band of 4th - 8th grade students began the concert with some simple tunes and a few holiday songs. Ms. Deborah, our band teacher, was very pleased with how far these new band students have come in such a short time! The intermediate band of 4th - 8th grade students continued the concert with a couple of marches and a popular song, "My Heart Will Go On". Then the audience was treated to some small ensemble performances. A trumpet trio comprised of Christopher Lee, Molly Hamann and Alex Beckman performed a familiar holiday tune, "Angels We Have Heard on High", and a flute duet of Christina Park and Ms. Deborah performed "A Holly Jolly Christmas". The concert ended with the intermediate band playing some more holiday tunes. We are so proud of our band students and all of their hard work in preparing for the winter concert!

Chorus Concert



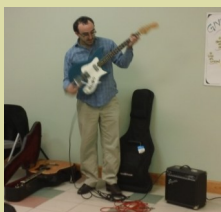
The McGinnis Woods Choir put on an amazing Holiday Show under the direction of Ms. Xylina on December 11th at Lord of Life Church. The students in grades 4-8th sang and danced to a cheerful variety of seasonal and patriotic songs. Their costumes and simple scenery evoked happy memories of days gone by and created new memories for the future.

The McGinnis Woods Show Choir put on an amazing Holiday Show under the direction of Ms. Xylina on December 11 at Lord of Life Church. The students in grades 4-8th sang and danced to a cheerful variety of seasonal and patriotic songs. Their costumes and simple scenery evoked happy memories of days gone by and created new memories for the future. Highlights of the show were the 4th graders opening the show with *Season of Bells* 5th graders rendition of *Over the River* in their sleigh and *Rocking Around the Christmas Tree* which featured the 6-8th graders. The rousing chorus of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* closed out the show for another season.



Musik 21

McGinnis Woods students were treated to a presentation by Piotr Folkert, a talented musician from Musik 21. During the interactive presentation, students were introduced to the violin, banjo, acoustic guitar, and electric guitar. They learned the differences between acoustic and electric instruments, the history of some of the string instruments, and how sound travels when we make vibrations. He played Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" on all of the instruments and the students were able to hear and discuss how the same piece of music can sound very different. The highlight for many was the rock and roll music played on the electric guitar at the end of the presentation. Students clapped and danced as they thanked Mr. Folkert for coming to our school.



1800's Day



Third grade had a fabulous time celebrating 1800's day after reading *Choose Your Own Adventures: Colonial Times*. This memory-filled day gave the third graders an opportunity to dress like Colonial Americans and participate in many unique activities. The third graders made their own butter and rag dolls, cross-stitched initials, whittled soap, and did some wood-working. They had fun creating beeswax candles and sachets out of fabric, cotton and scented oils. The students also made clove-apples similar to those which the colonists would have used to keep their homes smelling fresh. Overall, the students decided that life today is much easier than it used to be. If you

would like to read some more about 1800's Day check out the students' writings displayed across from the Science Room.



BETA Club



The Jr. Beta Club has many wonderful projects in the planning stages. We have four groups working on several different projects. Group one is looking for members of the military that we can adopt and send letters and care packages to in order to show our appreciation for their service. They are also working to assist with the Matthew Freeman Project. Group two is working on a plan to help the Humane Society of Forsyth County. Group three is working on a program called the "12 by 12 Love Project" to help build a home in a small Guatemalan village. Finally, group 4 bagged over 120 snack bags for children in a local elementary school. These bags will help hungry children within our community. These students will also be

working with The Place. All Jr. Beta club members have spent the fall volunteering within their local and school communities and should be proud of how much they have given back.

We are off to a good start and are excited to see the direction the students take.

Robotics



The Lego Robotics Team traveled to Walton High School on Saturday, December 8th to compete against 23 other teams in the Walton Qualifier of the First Lego League (www.firstlegoleague.org). The FLL is an organization of about 20,000 teams in over 60 countries around the world. The competition has three primary components:

Robotics - Students design, build and program robots using Lego parts to complete various missions on a standard robot game table.

Research - Students must research the theme area, identify a real world problem,

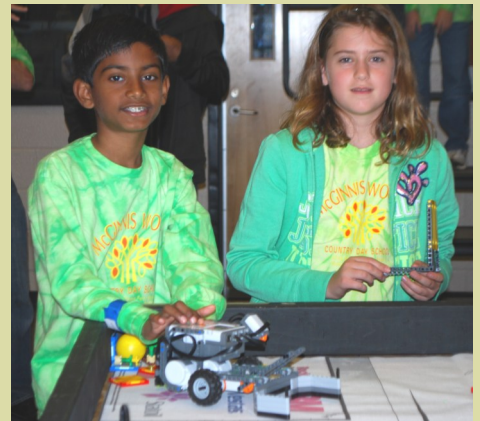
invent a new or innovative solution to the identified problem, and present their solution in a skit, play, or other presentation.

Core Values - Teams are judged on teamwork and “Gracious Professionalism - a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others and respect for individuals and the community”.

The team did an absolutely fantastic job in all three areas of competition and there are high hopes for this team for the next season! The competition judges were very complimentary of our team. The theme for this year is Senior Solutions - Helping Seniors Stay Independent, Engaged, and Connected.

We visited The Oaks Senior Living Facility where the team interviewed residents to learn what type of problems they experience that prevent them from being as Independent, Engaged, and Connected as they would like. Through research, the team learned that the best thing the Seniors can do to improve their quality of life is get plenty of exercise. Thinking of the First Down for Fitness program here at the school, they created a new program for Seniors they named “Senior Superstar Workout” where celebrities would encourage seniors to exercise on a regular basis much like the Atlanta Falcons encourage them. Congratulations McGinnis Woods Wildcats Robotics Team for an excellent FLL season .

Our team members are McKinley Bowles, Tayler Evangelista, Akhil Jagarlamudi, Bizzy Jordan, Siya Kalra, Alberta Pagliotti, Nirvan Parikh, Sachin Rajeev, Hank Royal, and Akshitha Surapaneni.



DIGGER DOG



Second and Third graders had a visit from Georgia 811's mascot, Digger Dog, promoting the message of safe digging. Ms. Maria and Digger provide a fun, interactive, program designed to equip young Georgians with the information needed to protect themselves in hazardous situations. He shared information about safe digging, smelling natural gas and acting fast, and safety techniques to use around overhead electrical lines in his energetic, informative, and life-saving presentation.

His message fits several of the criteria found in both 2nd & 3rd Grades Georgia Performance Standards. Students had the opportunity to review gas and energy properties; enhance their vocabulary, communication, and media comprehension skills; and improve their safety-consciousness as well as dance and hear some energetic music.

Kindergarten



Ms. Noelle Boyd is the lead teacher in the Kindergarten Monkey room. This is Ms. Noelle's sixth year teaching kindergarten. Previously, Ms. Noelle taught special education in a preschool setting. She received her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education in 2003 from Utah State University. After graduation, Ms. Noelle taught four years and then took a three year break to be home with her son, Spencer who is also attending McGinnis Woods Pre-K. Last year was her first year back and she has truly loved working for McGinnis Woods Country Day School. Coming from a large family of six siblings and 13 nieces and nephews, Ms. Noelle has come to love working with young children. She loves to see the excitement in their eyes!

Ms. Ruth Lambert, soon to be Mrs. Adams, is the assistant teacher in the Kindergarten Monkey room. Ms. Ruth is a recent graduate from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelors of Science in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She is a current attendee of Liberty University where she is pursuing her Masters of Education in Teaching and Learning in Elementary Education. She has a Valley Bulldog named Diesel who is six years old. She loves to spend time with him and her wonderful fiancé, Matthew Adams. She believes that all students have the capability to learn, and she believes in setting high expectations for all students.

Ms. Lyndsey Boden is the lead teacher in the Kindergarten Giraffe room. This is her first year as a lead teacher at McGinnis Woods Country Day School. Last year, Ms. Lyndsey served as an assistant teacher for the first grade Pandas. She received her Bachelors of Science in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Kennesaw State University in 2010. Along with her Bachelors degree, she has received Special Education certification. She believes in using skills learned at Kennesaw State University to provide an environment where all students can succeed

Ms. Kelli Arnold, assistant in the Giraffes room, brings over ten years of classroom experience as a certified K-8 teacher. Her career has featured students in a wide range of very diverse cultures; including 7 years of 1st grade in the Highland Park section of Los Angeles, where Spanish is the primary language; and 5th grade in Detroit, Michigan. Since moving to Georgia, she has taught Kindergarten and 2nd - 3rd grades at other private schools. Kelli is an honors graduate of the University of Michigan in elementary education, as well as trained in ESL at Cal State LA.

News from our Parent Association

The holidays are in full swing and we feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful community. Once again, the families at McGinnis Woods showed their generous spirit by donating items to the North Fulton Community Charities Adopt-a-Family Program. Your generosity will directly help over ten families in need and ensure they have a special holiday season.



The elves were also very busy helping our students shop for a special gift for a loved one. NO Peeking! It was a delight to see so many young shoppers know exactly what Mom, Dad, Sister, Brother, Grandma, Grandpa or another special someone would like. Each came in with ideas and specific reasons- be sure to ask why that chose each particular gift. We had a great deal of fun helping them shop. To the volunteers that helped during this week, many thanks! The PA could not have done it without you.

The PA is always looking for volunteers for the various activities and events we have. If you are interested in being a part of the PA or to participate as a committee member, please let us know by e-mailing us at

pa@mcginniswoods.org. This is a great way to meet other parents and participate in your child's education. The PA is responsible for events such as the Fall Festival Basket Raffles, Holiday Shoppe, Valentine's Dance, Scene on the Green, Spaghetti Night, and the various fundraisers. If you are interested in any of these events and can contribute some time and ideas, we are looking for you.



Young Elite Etiquette Club

This is our first session of etiquette classes for our 2nd – 4th grade students. Mrs. Joyce Clark is the instructor and is teaching the history of manners, introductions, conversations with style, being a friend, being a great guest and host, thank you notes, table manners and more. The students spend the last few minutes of each class learning a new dance. The session culminates with a party on the last day that parents are invited to attend to show off their skills. This class has been well



received and the students have learned so much! The next session will be offered in the spring.



Preschool Corner

We are busy bees here in the Preschool! October and November flew by with our families enjoying both The Pumpkin Patch and our Annual Halloween Parade. The Scholastic Book Fair also wrapped up successfully and teachers and children are now enjoying the wonderful books purchased.

Holiday celebrations have already begun, kicking off with our Diwali theme this week. Children learned all about this festival of lights and had a great time sampling treats and seeing traditional cultural dress. Next month, we will continue our holiday studies.

This month Santa visited McGinnis Woods! Photos were taken of our lovely children and they had a great visit with Santa Claus. We cherish moments like this and have captured memories for a lifetime!



Winter Science

McGinnis Woods students have been able to experience Winter Science programs here at school on December 17th and 18th from 3:30-4:30 pm. Mad Scientists Ms. Sam and Ms. Wendy have been leading these groups through several fun, chilly experiments. We have made “snow” and explore with ice.



They are also making New Year Eve's "fireworks", and for a tasty, cold treat, they will be enjoying ice cream! In the midst of all the frosty fun, it warms Ms. Sam's and Ms. Wendy's hearts to watch the students inquire and experiment with new ideas and hands on science!



A Note from the Enrichment Teacher, Kristen Craig

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and work with the new MCGW students this year. I currently see about twenty-five PreK-8th grade students each week. In addition to working one-on-one with the children, I also provide support to different classroom reading groups. This year I have had the opportunity to work with and strengthen the students' skills in phonics, reading, math, writing and vocabulary. My lessons are designed to be fun, engaging, and to support the student's particular learning styles and needs. I incorporate a variety of multisensory techniques into my lessons to give the students a greater understanding of the concepts they are being taught.

I always strive to meet the individual needs and learning styles of those students who need extra support and push to develop their academic skills and knowledge to their fullest potential.

The remainder of the year will be one full of fun, learning, and challenges. I look forward to working together with you and your child. Please contact me if I can be of any support at home or at school to assist with your child's success. I can be reached at kcraig@mcginniswoods.org.



5th Grader Dreams Big and Helps Others



This year in 5th grade Counseling Class, Ms. Jenn challenged the 5th graders to set a realistic goal to reach by the end of the semester. One of her students, Jeremy Criden, set a goal to raise \$25 dollars through a school bake sale to send to a organization supporting cancer research. Then Hurricane Sandy hit and Jeremy decided that he really wanted to do something to help the thousands ravaged by the destructive storm.

Jeremy then sought permission for a bake sale with school administration, made and hung posters advertising the sale throughout the school, and promoted the sale on the morning announcements. He single handedly baked and bagged over 150 items for the bake sale that he manned along with his mom's assistance during one of our recent lunches. His sale was a big hit with the students and he was able to raise over \$100 dollars that he donated to the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Fund through the Red Cross.

Winter Camp Information

Winter Break Camp PreK-8th



December 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 31

January 2, 3, 4 2013

***School Closed: December 24th, 25th and January 1st**

Join us for our Winter Wonderland at the Woods Camp during special days in December and January. We will make and enjoy Snowflake Creations, Icicle Pops, a Wintery Play put on by our very own Wildcats, Ice Skating at The Alpharetta Family Skate Center and a trip to the Center for Puppetry Arts to see *“Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” with a special behind the scenes tour!*

Don't miss out on all the activities, fun and adventures this *Winter at the Woods*.

\$12 Field Trip Fee – Center for Puppetry Arts Dec 21st (PreK)

\$8 Field Trip Fee – Alpharetta Family Skate Center Jan 3rd (K-8th)

Summer Spectacular at McGinnis Woods



Summer 2013 will be here before we know it—let's make it a spectacular one!

This summer join us for fiestas, oodles and doodles of pirates, jungle fun and more, right here at McGinnis Woods. We will be traveling to Legoland, the Atlanta Zoo, a Western Museum and have many more adventures. Our Wildcats will put on a “So You Think You Can Sing?” Talent show—don't miss out!

Also, also don't forget we will have Academic and Specialty camps available all summer long.

Summer Spectacular Camp dates May 28th—August 9th

Registration available today!