

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



February 2011, Volume 2, Issue 5



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

2/24:	Fun Run
3/1:	Food Drive
3/4:	Fun Run Pledges Due
3/6:	Discovery Clubs Begin!
3/11:	End of Term 3 Snow Make-up Day School in Session
3/17:	Non-Uniform Spring Pictures by Ken Rada Studios
3/18:	Report Cards
3/21- 3/25:	Stanford Standardized Testing, 1st-8th Grades

## 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

February has been filled with great learning opportunities, wonderful visitors and good old-fashioned fun! We started off the month with our annual Family Valentine's Dance. Families had a wonderful time visiting with friends, dancing to the DJ's tunes, enjoying good food and bidding on silent auction items. Our teachers donated many hours of their time and creativity to the auction items. There were some friendly bidding wars, all for a great cause, our school.

Students had a lot of fun celebrating Valentine's Day in their classrooms, too. They exchanged valentines, played fun games, laughed and enjoyed treats all in the name of "love." We turned this yearly celebration into an opportunity to talk about kindness and seizing every opportunity to value others with our words and actions. We want our school to be known not only for its strong academics and caring staff, but also as a place where we care about one another each and every day.

February is also Black History Month. We had a fabulous story teller, Akbar Imhotep, visit with our K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders. He transported us all to many wonderful places and times through his amazing story telling skills and imagination. The students loved the many props, instruments and ideas he shared.

February is also Boosterthon Fun Run time. I truly look forward to each February when the Boosterthon team descends on our campus and works to reinforce the many character traits and concepts that we talk about throughout the year. This year's theme, **Leader Launch**, has been so well received by our students and staff. Cho Cho, Rockin'Ryan and Mattie P have encouraged our students through their zany antics, role play and genuine enthusiasm to be **Learners** who are **Active**, **Uplifting**, **Not bullies**, **Courageous** and **Helpers**. The students have enjoyed learning about what it takes to be a leader and the vibe in our school is very upbeat and positive. Please be sure to join us this Thursday, February 24, to cheer on the McGinnis Woods students as they run the Fun Run and help our school raise funds to expand our lunchroom.

Thanks for all that you do to make our school an exceptional place for students to learn, be inspired, nurtured and to excel!



# Wildcat Chat

## 2011 Wildcat Track & Field Season Preview

### Girls:

The Girls Track & Field Team hopes to build on last year's success to maybe bring home the first ever girls' school championship. Last year's team finished second in the MAAC Track & Field Championships. With three MAAC champions and four school record holders returning, who knows how the team will improve.

The team is working hard, and they know there are high expectations for the season. They feel confident that, with no injuries or set-backs, this Wildcat team may win it all.



### Boys:

The Boys Track Team had it rough last year battling in the meets with a small and young team. This year promises to be a much improved year. The team is bigger and more experienced. The season should be a real winner.

With a larger and more experienced squad, this team will be very competitive. The team is now more balanced across events and has the talent to really contend.

The Wildcats' season opens up February 23 with a meet at Davis Academy. They finish the season at Galloway's MAAC Track & Field Championships April 11 & 13, 2011. Results of meets and meet highlights will be posted in next month's Newsletter.

## National Dental Hygiene Month

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. So, students in PreK4/5 through second grade had a special visit from John's Creek Pediatric Dental Town on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Michael Hansen talked to students about dental care and the importance of developing good habits at an early age. He even brought a five foot toothbrush and demonstrated correct brushing technique. He used the students as teeth to demonstrate correct flossing technique using a REAL JUMP ROPE as floss! The students really liked this and got a great visual image of flossing. Dr. Hansen talked to the children about foods to promote good dental hygiene and foods to stay away from. He said that chocolate is the best kind of candy to eat...when we eat candy! He emphasized the importance of regular dental visits in addition to good oral hygiene habits in order to get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.





## PA Board Update

Lace up your running shoes, the Boosterthon Fun Run is here! We kicked off our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Fun Run campaign last Tuesday, and the kids are off to a great start. With the Boosterthon Team on campus the students have been learning about this year's character theme which is Leader LAUNCH. Every child is a winner with this program, and they come away with having learned about fitness, leadership, and important character traits.

This year, our goal is to raise \$30,000. If every child in the school raises and collects \$10 per lap, we could accomplish that goal. We are raising money to nearly double our current cafeteria space. With this new space we will be better able to run our lunch periods, as well as use the space for school performances, gatherings and community building.

Join us Thursday, February 24th for the Fun Run. The race times are: Pre-K-10am, K & 1st-11am, School Picnic 12noon, 2nd & 3rd- 12:30, 4th thru 8th 1:30pm.



## Visit to Humane Society by Jr. Beta Club

At the start of the 2010-11 school year, the members of the Jr. Beta Club had one goal, to help local animals in need. They worked hard fundraising and during meetings to make sure they could make an impact in the life of a dog or cat in our community. On Friday, February 14, the students were able to celebrate all they have been working for when they traveled to the Forsyth County Humane Society. The stu-



dents presented a \$178.00 check as well

as all of the dog and cat toys that they had made during a recent meeting. The shelter gave the students information about what they do and provided them with a tour of their facility. The trip culminated with playtime with some very precious dogs and cats. One fortunate dog was actually adopted by a McGinnis Woods family as a result of this trip! Overall, it was a wonderful trip that benefitted many homeless animals in addition to the members of the Jr. Beta Club.



# *Renowned Storyteller Visits McGinnis Woods*

The Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students had the unique opportunity to spend the morning with renowned story teller Akbar Imhotep. Mr. Imhotep is a native of Perry, Georgia, and has been part of the Atlanta storytelling community for over 30 years. Besides traveling to schools



around the South, his storytelling can be heard at such places as The Wren's Nest, Callanwolde and Oakland Cemetery. By using a combination of stories, puppets and music, the students were transported to different parts of the world. Most students agreed that their favorite story was called "I'm Not Going to the Wedding," an African folktale. Mr. Imhotep's stories called for audience participation and the children loved being a part of the charming tales.

## **"Specials" Program: Featuring Mr. Nate Peterson, After School and Summer Camp Director**

Nate Peterson is a new face at McGinnis Woods. He is heading up the After School and Summer Camp Programs and is enjoying every minute of it!

Nate graduated from the University of Illinois with a Major in Leisure Studies and a concentration in Sport Management. After college, Nate moved to Georgia and spent five years as the Assistant Director of Activities at First Redeemer Sports where he organized youth sports leagues. He loves to see the positive impact that sports can have on individuals and communities. He has always had a strong interest in sports and recreation and played soccer through high school. He now enjoys playing a round of golf whenever time allows.



Nate and his wife, Holly, live in Cumming and have a beautiful little girl named Sara. Sara is enrolled in the preschool. Nate and his wife are expecting a new baby boy this summer.

Be sure to say "Hi" to Mr. Nate whenever you see him around the school. He is looking forward to getting to know everyone. He is enjoying his after school involvement and is super excited about making summer camp an amazing time for everyone. We're already planning all kinds of fun activities including new themes, field trips and clubs. We also have a few new Discovery Clubs slated for the summer including golf, chess and karate. Be on the lookout for registration information soon.



# Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

February has been a fabulous month in the Preschool! During February the children have learned about love, terrific teeth and their bodies. Dr. Hansen from Pediatric Dental Town visited us and encouraged us all to brush our teeth twice a day and eat healthy foods. He also brought a toothbrush as large as the children. The children got to hold the toothbrush and brush an imaginary row of teeth (their classmates were the teeth).

Also in February, the children have been learning about our great state: Georgia! They have learned about the state flower, bird, and tree. Can you name the state flower, bird or tree? Ask your child to tell you what they are.

The children also enjoyed class Valentine's Day parties filled with lots of heart shaped cookies and pink and red cupcakes along with their parents and friends. It was an exciting time for all!

Congratulations to Ms. Sue our Pre-K 3/4 class teacher of the month. Sue has been an excellent addition to our preschool staff. Her enthusiasm and energy are infectious and the kids love her! The nursery and Ms. Amy are being recognized as classroom of the month. They are helping our youngest children learn and be nurtured.

Mark your calendars...March 21-25 for our first ever Preschool Scholastic Book Fair. Watch for additional information about this special event. All the money raised will be used to purchase additional books for the preschool classrooms. This will be a great way to enhance our classes. Be sure to stop by and see all the wonderful things that are taking place throughout the preschool. We are very proud of all the hard work our teachers put into their classrooms!!



## Volunteers Needed - *We Want You!!*

Did you know that there are many opportunities for you to help out at McGinnis Woods? During the month of March we are looking for volunteers to:

**READ:** we need readers on Wednesday, March 2 for Read Across America Day

**SHELVE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY:** any Tuesday or Thursday

**HELP with CAREER DAY:** this event is on Wednesday, April 27. Do you know anyone with an interesting career who might like to come and share with our 1-8<sup>th</sup> graders? Please let Ms. Jenn know.

If you would like to volunteer to help with one of these needs or in any other way, please email Ms. Mary at [mjohnson@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:mjohnson@mcginniswoods.org).



## Classroom Spotlight: Study of Ancient Greece



The Third Graders took a trip back in time to the eighth century B.C. when Greek civilization was first born. Students studied the impact ancient Greeks made on our current society and explored topics such as famous Greek gods and goddesses; theatre and arts; culture; geography; and architecture. After an extensive study of Greece, each child chose a Greek god or goddess and prepared a diorama

to represent their assigned god/goddess. Students, adorned in Greek Togas and costumes, then presented facts about their god/goddess to the class and shared their dioramas. They also enjoyed a celebration of food and culture while trying some tasty treats. Foods such as baklava, feta cheese, pita wraps, and Greek lasagna were sampled by all. The third graders had an amazing time learning about ancient Greece and its history.



## Field Trip of the Month: The Michael C. Carlos Museum

To compliment their study of ancient Greece, the third graders recently took a field trip to the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University. Housed in a distinguished building by renowned architect Michael Graves, the students explored artifacts and sculptures from ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Additionally, they learned about objects used in the first Olympic Games, saw objects from the daily life of Greeks, met figures from Greek literature, and heard stories about the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece. After touring the museum, the students got a chance to see the campus of Emory University and dine with college students and professors in the campus dining hall.



## Upcoming Internet Safety Classes for Parents and Students

### *Mark Your Calendars!*

Please join us for a presentation on the dangers of the internet and solutions to keep your child safe. There will be two classes, one for adults and one for students in 5-8<sup>th</sup> grades, which will be taught by Deputy Peter Sabella from the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department. The first class will be held on March 22 at 7:00 p.m. and is for adults only. A second class will be held on March 23 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and is appropriate for the students.