

McGinnis Woods Buzz



May 2011, Volume 2, Issue 8



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5/19: Choral Concert
Lord of Life, 6 pm
- 5/20: Creative Movement
Dance Recital, 5:45 pm
- 5/23: Field Day, 9am
- 5/24: Awards Day, 9 am
- 5/25: End of 2010-2011 Term
Last Day of School Scene on the Green at 6:30 pm
- 5/30: School Closed
Memorial Day
- 5/31: McGinnis Woods Summer Camp Begins

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

The 2010-11 school year is coming to a rapid close. We have a week of school left before summer vacation and the halls are humming with end of the year excitement.

We have had an excellent year of learning and growing. All of our teachers and staff have been so creative and diligent in their instruction and commitment to the students of McGinnis Woods. We are often asked, "What makes

McGinnis Woods unique?" As a staff we have talked about this question repeatedly, and we strongly believe that our distinction is our attention to the individual needs of the students, our strong school community and the excellent hands on learning opportunities we provide for our students. Our mission of *Inspiring students with the passion to excel* is ingrained in the very fabric of our school.

This newsletter is packed with great information and news to celebrate. Our sports teams had a memorable time at their Awards Day last week. Be sure to check out the article about the celebration. Next week is packed with Field Day, a Citizen of the Month lunch, and our annual Awards Day to honor the many students in K-8 who have done great things this year. Also, plan to join us on Wednesday evening, May 25, for our final PA event of the year, Scene on the Green. The night will include great food, Bingo, a silent auction, and the movie *Gulliver's Travels*. Tickets will be available at the door if you haven't purchased yours yet.

Summer Camp begins on Tuesday, May 31. Our Summer Camp team has a lot of fun activities, field trips and zany plans ready for the campers, so if you are looking for a great summer camp choice, you need look no further than McGinnis Woods.

Our Back to School Picnic will be on Saturday, August 13. Until the next time we meet, we wish you much happiness and joy!



Wildcat Chat

Sport Awards Ceremony Finishes a Great Year in Sports!

The Wildcat sports teams ended their year with the 3rd Annual Sports Awards Ceremony, May 11, 2011. Athletes were honored in all of our contested interscholastic sports.

Awards presented were Most Valuable Player (MVP), Most Improved Player (MIP), and Coaches Award (CA). Also, athletes that played three or more sports were presented with "All McGinnis Woods" certificates. These athletes were eligible for being picked as "Athlete of the Year."

2011 Sports Awards:

	<u>Soccer</u>	<u>B-Team Girls BB</u>	<u>Girls Track</u>
MVP	Kyle Partain	Supri Sama	Tomisin Odetoyinbo
MIP	Brad Dull	Emily Williams	Courtney Stuart
CA	Katherine Gall	Carly Bachism	Courtenay Morse
	<u>Volleyball</u>	<u>A-Team Girls BB</u>	<u>Boys Track</u>
MVP	Natalie Mies	Adrienne Lee	Sam Zoldock
MIP	Alex Monk	Mahima Siripurapu	Jared Smith
CA	Teema Yassine	Lindsey Campbell	Daniel Elkin
	<u>Girls Cross Country</u>	<u>Boys BB</u>	<u>Boys Cross Country</u>
MVP	Adrienne Lee	Ryan Field	Chris Lee
MIP	Emmalyn Cushman	Jared Smith	Daniel Elkin
CA	Carly Bachism	Chris Lee	Paul Elkin

Athletes of the Year:

Girls: Adrienne Lee

Boys: Sam Zoldock

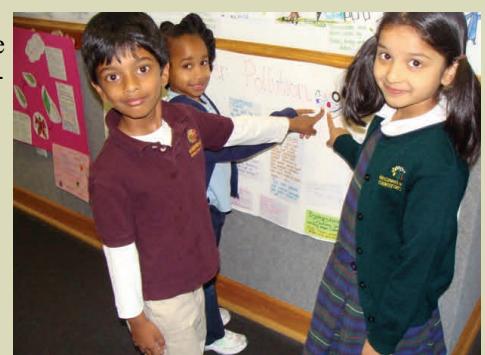
It is great to wrap up another successful sports year. We look forward to an even better one next year!

The Kindergarten Parrots take an Earth Day Journey

While studying about Earth Day and oceans, the Parrots took an imaginary journey to Lake Abramson, a manmade class lake. The lake started out as a clean and lovely place to visit. Then, they added items of litter such as a foam shape, a hard plastic cube, writing paper, and some crackers into the lake to see what would occur. They watched to see what immediate changes would happen. After analyzing the changes, chemicals such as shaving cream and laundry soap were added to the water. Everything was left in the lake overnight. "It looked fun, but dirty," Jaclyn Frost noted.

The next morning, the class was surprised by how the lake looked. It was no longer clean, but instead dark and murky. The shaving cream had expanded and now covered the entire surface of the lake! Ms. A. put on gloves and scooped off the chemical layer, but the damage to the lake had been done.

Through this process, the kindergartners learned that biodegradable means that an object will break down and go back into nature without hurting our environment. Kristen Freeman said, "We tried to make the water clean but it didn't work. It was never clean again. I don't want to swim in that water!" They also learned that non-biodegradable items can hurt animals in the water. The students were especially surprised by what happened to the feathers that were in the water. They became very oily and the students decided that birds would not be able to fly if their feathers were so oily from being in the water. Sidd Srinivasan said, "It was a fun activity because I learned not to make the water dirty or the fish will die."



PA Board Update

It is hard to believe that this year is coming to a close. The PA Board has had many projects and activities that have directly benefitted all of our children and helped continue to build our strong community at McGinnis Woods. Our biggest project this year was our Annual Fund Project 2010-11. Below is a quick break down of all the additions we, as parents, were able to contribute to enhance our children's education.

ANNUAL FUND PROJECT		
Raised	Balance of FunRun 2010	\$ 10,000.00
	Surplus from 2009-10	\$ 7,000.00
	Annual Fund 2010-11	\$ 64,620.00
Purchased	Full Computer system/upgrade	\$ 76,943.00
	Science Grant	\$ 5,000.00

Our technology upgrade consisted of a total revamping of our computer system. We were able to purchase 3 servers, 40 classroom thin clients, 62 laptops, as well as all the necessary software and hardware needed. This has made a huge impact in the children's classrooms.

In addition, we also raised money with our fall fundraiser, Charleston Wrap. These funds were coupled with funds from Fall Festival Baskets to purchase a portable stage and full sound system. All who attended the Thanksgiving Feasts were able to see the benefit of these two purchases. Our Scene on the Green will also demonstrate this once again.

FALL FUNDRAISER		
Raised	Charleston Wrap/Fall Festival	\$ 10,606.00
Purchased	Sound System	\$ 4,315.00
	Staging	\$ 6,218.00

We would like to welcome our Board's newest members: Pam Pye, Ken Adcox, Kesha Darji, Carey McCallar, and Candy Johnson. With a heartfelt "Thank you" we will also be saying goodbye to Lisa Moore, Leslie Criden, Suzette Romer and Melissa Depuydt. Your hard work and dedication is truly appreciated.

We would also like to take a moment to thank all the volunteers who dedicated their time to make this year so special. To every Room Rep- your commitment does make a difference and is much appreciated. To all the parent volunteers, without you, events like Teacher Appreciation, Valentine's Dance, Holiday Shoppe, Charleston Wrap and Fall Festival Baskets, would not have taken place. Your time and effort is noticed and is the foundation of our school.

Don't forget to join us for our final event this year! Scene on the Green, May 25th at 6:30 pm, It is our biggest celebration and always seen as a great way to bring the year to a close. We will have a catered dinner by Jim and Nick's, music, a chorus performance, auctions, Bingo and our big screen showing of Gulliver's Travels. So bring your chairs, blankets and McGinnis Woods spirit!

Classroom Spotlight: Diamante Poems

The 4th and 5th grades have been working on understanding the features of Diamante poems. There are two distinct patterns. Pattern 1 focuses on describing one noun, while pattern 2 focuses on describing two different nouns that are antonyms. After creating a Diamante together, students chose their own pattern to complete. They were required to use a dictionary and thesaurus so that they could vary their word choices. All of the students did a wonderful job. The following poems were written by Gehna Chauhan, Noah Abramson, and Supri Sama.

Friend
Nice, Polite
Caring, Sharing, Helping
Kind, Amiable-Mean, Cruel
Fighting, Kicking, Hitting
Fierce, War-like
Enemy

By Supri Sama, 5th grader

Karate
Quick, Controlled
Sparring, Defending, Attacking
Practicing lots of forms
Kicking, Punching, Focusing
Inspirational, Skillful
Master



By Noah Abramson, 5th grader

Thoughts
Exuberant, interesting
Expressing, thinking, feeling,

Dancing across the mind

Calculating, remembering, growing
Beautiful, nauseating,
Cogitation

By Gehna Chauhan, 4th Grader

Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Spring Carnival. A fun time was had by everyone. The weather was perfect and the food was yummy!

We started the month of May celebrating Muffins with Mom. The children were so excited to have their moms come and eat a snack with them. This month the children are learning about ocean animals, transportation, and pets. We will end the month of May with a luau on the 25th. Watch for more details during the next few weeks.



The teacher of the month for May is Ms. Chantale Jean-Charles. Ms. Chantale is part of the teaching team in 3TA. Ms. Chantale's quiet spirit and calm personality makes her a perfect fit for this age. The classroom of the month for May is 3A. Ms. Stacy and Ms. Caryn team teach this busy classroom. 3A children are always happily painting, reading books or enjoying one of our many specials.

On Friday, May 27th at 3:30 p.m., we will be hosting a Trike-a-thon for St. Jude's Research Hospital. Our goal was to raise \$2,000. Over the past few years we have raised a cumulative total of over \$8,900 and last year, we almost met our goal of \$2,000, with \$1,700 raised. More information to come, so keep an eye out! Let's make this our best Trike-a-thon yet!

Our curriculum spotlight for this month is sand and water. Sand and water are excellent materials for tactile learning. When children pour water into measuring cups, they are refining their fine motor skills and exploring math concepts. When they drop stones, feathers, and marbles into a tub of water, they became scientists exploring which objects float and which sink. When they comb sand into patterns, they learn about patterns in math and art. The opportunity to play with sand and water on a regular basis helps children to develop their minds and bodies in relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable ways!

As always, feel free to stop by the preschool at anytime and see all the wonderful things we are doing!

Field Trip of the Month: Nature's Classroom



The 4th grade had a wonderful time at Nature's Classroom in Mentone, Alabama. We enjoyed hiking, eating, performing skits, making s'mores over the campfire, making bridges and candles, learning new skills, and most importantly Team Building. Our counselors were great and very supportive. There were challenges that we had to face and overcome. We learned how to accept and appreciate one another for our differences. It was a great experience that we have brought back into the classroom, and will be able to use for the future.

“Specials” Program: Featuring Joe Parson, Art Teacher

Joe Parson teaches art classes from preschool through eighth grade and contributes to the After School Art Program. He really enjoys the friendly family atmosphere at McGinnis Woods Country School. Mr. Joe feels the school has a commitment to excellence in academics and art, and provides great opportunities for students to further their skills and knowledge. In his classes, Mr. Joe uses



many examples of historical and contemporary artists, and techniques are demonstrated in a variety of media, while adhering to the National Standards in Fine Arts. Students are provided with the tools and instruction to express their creativity in both traditional and free-form methods. Mr. Joe has been teaching art at McGinnis Woods Country Day School since 2008. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Columbus College of Art and Design and graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1993 with a Master of Fine Arts in Painting. In the past, he has had the pleasure of working as a Designer for the Columbus Museum of Art, Dale Chihuly Studios, and The Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University. Mr. Joe and his family moved here in September of 2005 from Columbus, Ohio. He and his family love it here and really enjoy the south. He has been married for 14 years. His wife, Alix, is a photographer and works for Turner Broadcasting. They have two beautiful boys, twelve year old Noah and four year old, Seth, who attend preschool here at McGinnis Woods. Mr. Joe enjoys making art, playing with his boys, cooking, drumming, working out, and working on his web site, www.parsonarts.com.

Hola Amigos!

More “Specials” Program: Featuring Cassandra Hulett, Spanish Teacher

Ms. Cassandra Hulett moved to Atlanta from Los Angles in 1994 and has felt at home ever since. Although, she misses the beach and her family and friends, she feels this has been an amazing place to raise her fabulous boys, Ryan and Colin. Ms. Cassandra has been teaching Spanish at McGinnis Woods for the past two years and enjoys every minutes of it. Cassandra has taken the Spanish program to a new level of excellence and the students are flourishing under her instruction. She has a BA in Spanish and is returning to Georgia State this summer to get her Master’s in Spanish Education. Ms. Cassandra feels very blessed to be doing what she loves every day and that her boys have the opportunity to share the experience with her as they attend McGinnis Woods.



Eventually, Ms. Cassandra would like to obtain a doctorate degree and live in a Latin American country or Spain when the boys are grown. She enjoys the Latin culture, as it is filled with so much family and love for family and life. Ms. Cassandra lives in Sandy Springs, walking distance from Chastain Park, and loves to get to the park as much as possible. During her free time, Cassandra enjoys running, getaways at the beach, trips to California, scrapbooking, camping, hiking, movies and popcorn, alone time with her girlfriends, listening to all different genres of music, going out for Mexican food and attending Buckhead Church.

Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jennifer Evangelista

Ms. Jennifer Evangelista is the 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Jenn has been an invaluable member of the McGinnis Woods' staff since 2007. Students enjoy Ms. Jenn's counseling classes and seek her out when they need someone to listen. She has an enthusiasm for life and feels that the school community is an extension of her family.

Ms. Jenn and her husband, Joe, have three adorable, lively children: Tayler (8), Drew (5) and Addy(2). They all love spending time together and look forward to special moments spent at the beach. Ms. Jenn also enjoys scrapbooking, photography and eating at Red Robin! We are proud to honor Ms. Jenn as Teacher of the Year!



Congratulations Eighth Graders!

Congratulations to graduates Lindsey Campbell, Adrienne Lee, David Maysuradze and Natalie Mies. We are very proud of their accomplishments and know that they will represent us well as they move on into high school.

The best memory I have from McGinnis Woods is playing for our Interscholastic Sports Team. One of my favorite moments in school history was when the girls won second place in the Basketball Championship Tournament. That I will always remember, along with last year when we won second place in the track and field championships. And you have to love Coach! He's the guy who makes it happen! I am definitely looking forward to playing basketball, running track, and riding for the equestrian team for Saint Francis High School next year.

Lindsey Campbell, Saint Francis High School

McGinnis Woods has given me a multitude of great experiences. My favorite though is of basketball season. This season was made memorable because of all the players. The basketball team is like a family; we are known as a whole and compete as one. All of the members are extremely supportive and care about the team. One of my favorite games was the home game at the end of the season. All of our parents were there and cheering us on. They created a friendly, positive atmosphere for us to play our best game in. I will always remember this experience for the rest of my life.

Adrienne Lee, Wesleyan

My favorite memory about McGinnis Woods is the 6th grade Space Camp overnight. It was one of the most impressive, fun, and interesting places I had ever been to. I still remember the rides, the huge rockets, and the presentations about spaceflight. I will probably never forget this trip or McGinnis Woods for as long as I live.

David Maysuradze, Fulton Science Academy



My favorite McGinnis Woods memory is when we went to Space Camp. Not only was the trip itself fun, so was the bus ride. It was an overall really awesome experience. We got to learn about space and the training astronauts go through. It was really fun and interesting and we got to go on rides like Space Shot, G-Force, and the MIT. My favorite was the MIT. The whole trip to Space Camp was just a really cool thing and something I will most definitely remember!

Natalie Mies, Blessed Trinity



Medieval Times by Andrew Solari and Shreyas Krishnapura

The 5th-8th graders recently went to Medieval Times. At first, we did not know what to expect, but we knew we would have a great time. The main event was 'the tournament'; it was so realistic! The jousting, the sword play, and the horse riding were all amazing. It was almost as if we were actually in medieval times. There were six different knights: the green knight, the red knight, the red and yellow knight, the black and white knights, the yellow knight, and the blue knight. We sat in the 'green knight's' section. At first, we did not know the green knight was the main antagonist of the play, but we still had a good time cheering him on. Other than the fighting, we also learned a lot. We learned about medieval battles, clothing, and tournaments much like the one they portrayed. It was an amazing field trip!