



McGinnis Woods Buzz

September 2009 Volume 1, Issue 1



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

Inspiring students with the
Passion to Excel

DATES TO REMEMBER

09/22: International Night
5:30—7:30 p.m.

09/29: Fall Pictures
PK-1st
Standard Uniform

09/30: Fall Pictures
2nd-8th
Standard Uniform

10/02: End of 1st Term

10/09: Early Release
K-8th, 1:15 p.m.

10/12: No Classes
Staff Development

10/16: Report Cards

10/24: Fall Festival

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

This school year is off to a great start! The first several weeks have been filled with lessons, field trips, recess, our first Pep Rally, Curriculum Nights, and homework. The school is filled with many smiling, engaged children, parents, teachers and staff. School is a great place to be!

Our Annual Fund is off to a great start. This year the Parent Association is leading our effort to raise funds to install a Sport Court. The Sport Court is going to provide our students with many additional opportunities for Intramural Sports. The actual court will be marked for Badminton, Basketball, Jr. Tennis, and Volleyball. The

surface of the court has excellent traction control and will limit injuries. It is also self draining and will not overheat. It will add to the variety of activities we can do on campus. So far we have 61% participation. We are hoping and expecting that 100% of our families will do their part to make the Sport Court a reality for our students this year! Please do your part and give what you can too help us reach this goal.

Our Discovery Clubs have started. We have teachers leading clubs in: Tennis, Rope, Discovery Clubs, and Robotics, Drama, Cooking, Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country and Young



and PLAYBALL. Last week, our Early Morning Band Practice Club began under the leadership of Mr. Jason. As you can see, our school is a very busy place each and every day as we inspire our students with the passion to excel!

Field Trip of the Month: Kindergarten INK Adventure

Classrooms KA, KB, and KC figments of their imagination. They were allowed to play trip. Last month, these kindergartners went to the Interactive Neighborhood for Kids (INK). INK is a children's museum located in Gainesville, Georgia, where children can role play and learn through hands on experiences.

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Wildcat Chat

PE News:

It is great to be back to school at ol' MWCDs! The kids are excited and have shown it in their early performances in the gym room and on the field. The first few weeks were spent reviewing units from last year and sharpening up everyone's fitness. Classes have been going well and the kids are having a ball.

Athletic News:

The Wildcats have begun their Fall sports season. These teams are Interscholastic Teams with a full schedule of games against other teams. The teams are open to grades 5-8 for both boys and girls. This season, we have teams in volleyball, cross country, and soccer.

Sport Highlight of the Month: Soccer

McGinnis Woods kicked off its soccer season with our first game on September 9th against To-rah Day School. We have a promising season ahead with five games scheduled. The team has been practicing hard working on foot work drills, two on one, scrimmages and testing our keeper. The team is enthusiastic and expects all our hard work and concentration to pay off on the pitch. Our team captain, Samuel Zoldock, is ready to lead our team to victory.

Fall Teams:

Girls Volleyball: Coach Hal Fairbanks

Boys & Girls Soccer: Coach Sam Beckman

Boys & Girls Cross Country: Coach Lauren Donelson

Afternoon Discovery Clubs Spotlight: Lego Robotics

McGinnis Woods Country Day School is embarking on a great, new adventure - Lego Robotics. Students of all ages can design, build, and program robots to complete tasks using Lego parts.

While having great fun building with Lego's, participants will learn about math, science, mechanics, engineering, and teamwork. Students can build soccer-playing robots, robots that respond to the sound of a voice, or robots which respond to contact with a solid object.

Participants will start with a basic robot and learn to program it to move. Robotics 2 participants will add sensors that respond to sound, light, and touch. For each new sensor there will be programming challenges to complete.

Lego Robotics is incredibly fun and challenging for students and adults alike. Field trips are planned for later in the fall to see some local schools' Robotics Clubs in competitions, with the hope that McGinnis Woods can have a competing team next year.



Session 1 Discovery Clubs run from the week of August 24th through October 12th.

PA Board Update

Welcome back to school! By now, we are sure you are well into your school routine. The PA has a great year planned and our first item on the calendar is our Annual Fund. Each year the Parent Association takes on an annual fundraiser to enhance our children's experience at McGinnis Woods. The broadcast system and the artificial turf on the playground were funded through the support of the McGinnis Woods families and coordinated through the Parent Association in recent years. We would like to build upon these projects by creating a safe multi-purpose Sports Court on the playground in the area beyond the turf. The Sports Court would allow our children, in all grade levels, to play volleyball, basketball, badminton and junior tennis. To achieve this, we need each and every family to participate.

We have our Annual Fund All Stars on the wall in the school's lobby, and we are grateful for the students and their families who have already pledged their support. At this time, only 61% of our families are participating. In order to achieve our goals, we need 100% participation. If you can't give at the suggested amount, we ask that you give what you can. At 100% participation, we not only will be able to install our court in October, but each class will get an extra non-uniform day and the school will have a popsicle party! If you haven't pledged your support today, please join us so we can reach our goal of 100% participation. We can't do it without you.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. Stay tuned for our upcoming Community and Social Events. We look forward to seeing you!

Please remember to visit www.renweb.com to check your child's grades and homework assignments. You can also access our school's calendar, family directory, and other useful web links. The McGinnis Woods ID is MCGW-GA.

Beta Club News

The Jr. Beta Club recently made a surprise visit to a nursing conference at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. They did a special presentation and sang a song of peace to recognize and thank the nurses for all they do in improving the health and lives of children.



There were over 100 nurses and other healthcare professionals at the conference and many were moved to tears by the Jr. Beta Club's beautiful performance.

All students at McGinnis Woods had the opportunity to participate in this event by making cards for the attendees. Every nurse received a card with a personalized drawing and note of thanks.

Georgia's Tuition Tax Credit Scholarship

The purpose of the Tax Tuition Scholarship program exists to help families send their children to schools that best fit their unique educational needs. For more information on this program, visit www.gascholarships.org.

Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3)

The school year is off to a great start and we are looking forward to many exciting opportunities and experiences ahead.

August was spent with many "Getting to Know You" activities. The children learned about school manners, rules, and how to participate actively in daily routines that show them they are important. This is a time of self discovery as the children learn about the things that make them special.

For September, we have many fun activities planned. The children will have some special visitors to help them learn about our very important community helpers. The children will also learn all about their five senses, with special projects such as making apple sauce, apple prints, and tasting and comparing different kinds of apples. They will also be making apple scented playdough and even paint with Kool-Aid to classical music. By doing all these activities, the preschoolers will explore math, language, science and so much more. Wow!

Preschoolers will also be learning about our environment, eating healthy snacks, and practicing self-help skills. We will be talking about our homes and families and the things that make us unique. On September 11th, grandparents were invited to have juice and cookies with us for Grandparents Day.

Here are a couple of dates to remember:

- September 16 Wear red day
- September 30 Wear your favorite team shirt day

September is National Good Manners and National Library Card Month. Watch for information about our Family Reading Challenge. As always, we encourage you to talk to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Also, the entire administrative staff is here to support you as well.

A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the Third Grade Team

Kristen Spradlin, Chris Chase, and Rebecca Strojan Weaver make up the third grade team. They have eight children of their own between them and share an "Ohio connection." Each has taken a unique path to McGinnis Woods. Kristen has ten years of teaching experience and Chris has three. Both are certified teachers and taught in the public school system in the North Fulton and Forsyth County School Districts before coming to McGinnis Woods. Rebecca spent time in the business world before following her heart and her family into teaching. Rebecca has begun the process of earning her teaching credentials this year and loves to teach math. Kristen's favorite subjects include science, math, and reading. Chris especially enjoys teaching language arts and writing.

Outside the classroom, all three spend a great deal of time with their children. Kristen enjoys nature walks and game nights with her family. She also enjoys going to the gym, reading, and spending time with friends. Chris enjoys gardening, swimming, reading, and travel. She lived in Italy for three years! Rebecca relaxes by reading, gardening, baking, and spending time outdoors.

Currently, the third grade team is teaching their pupils about the solar system and ancient Greece. Planned "Greek" activities include projects about Greek mythology, dressing up like an ancient Greek, and trying Greek food. The students seem excited about these activities. As one student put it...."THIRD GRADE ROCKS!!!"

