

McGinnis Woods Buzz



March 2010 Volume 1, Issue 7



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

Inspiring Students with the
Passion to Excel

DATES TO REMEMBER

3/12:	Report Cards
3/14:	Daylight Savings Time Starts/Spring Ahead
3/15:	Discovery Clubs Registration Due
3/19:	Pep Rally
3/22-26:	Stanford Testing
3/23:	McTeachers' Night (McGinnis Ferry Road)
3/28:	Discovery Clubs Start this week
4/5-9:	Spring Break School Closed

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

March has come in like a lion and will, hopefully, leave like a lamb. This has been such an unusual winter, but a memorable one at that. As March opened, we enjoyed our Teacher Appreciation Week and began our annual student overnights, along with all of the other activities that take place each and every day.

On March 2, in the midst of a snowstorm, we packed up 51 McGinnis Wood's students, teachers and parents and headed to Patriots Point, South

Carolina for an opportunity to spend two days on the U.S.S. Yorktown. The Yorktown was involved in many campaigns before being permanently retired to 26 feet of water. What a fascinating time we had as history was brought to life for us! We toured the massive ship in the bitter cold including the museums on board, a stationary submarine, the mess hall and the flight deck and, we even slept in berths. It was a privilege for us to meet former navy men and women. One morning, a veteran from World War II introduced himself to us as we were waiting to head to our Ferry to Fort Sumter. As we thanked him for his service and sacrifice he made to keep our country free, he said, "I want to thank you teachers, because you are serving this great country by preparing our children for the future." It was a touching moment, one I will not readily forget. It made me proud of the commitment our school community makes to give our students opportunities to learn within the community at large. I am sure that our students will forget many a classroom lesson, but they will never forget their moments on the Yorktown!

Stanford Testing is right around the corner and we are eager to see how well our students will do on this annual national standardized test. Please be reminded that we need every student to arrive on time during the week of March 22-26 and to be ready to show off their knowledge! Ensuring that your student gets plenty of sleep and eats a hearty breakfast each day during testing week will also help your student succeed.

We will be having one more Open House on Saturday, March 27 from 10-1, so if you have been thinking about inviting a friend or colleague to visit our school, this is the perfect opportunity. McGinnis Woods is a wonderful school where students are inspired to excel!



Wildcat Chat

Track & Field Season Preview

Track Season has started and the Wildcats are hoping to build on last year's success. We have 22 athletes on the team this year - 15 girls and 7 boys. Practices have been going well, and the athletes are excited about what the season will bring.

Girls Preview:

All our school record holders from last year are back and better than ever. By events:

- **Sprints:** Look out for Tomisin "O" in the dashes. "T" is working hard to improve on last year's times. She will get help from rookies Ashley Frost and Ishani Narassah.
- **Middle Distance:** We all know *this* is the base of our team. Hot shots "Peggy" Moffitt, "Big A" Lee, and "Bee" Johnson bring back experience, speed and endurance to the squad. New comers Mahima Siripurapu and Lindsey Campbell round out the team.
- **Distance:** Now the team has a strong distance crew. First time team members Courtney Stuart and Audrey Shannon give the team more depth.
- **Field Events:** Our team has always been strong here. Throwers Natalie Mies, "Mac" Johnson, and Alex "Al" Monk are looking for school records. Courtenay Morse is just one of our expert jumpers and expects to do well.

Overall we expect this to be a solid and experienced team that should surprise opponents this spring.

Boys Preview:

This team will be young and inexperienced this season. They bring some good conditioning and a fine competitive attitude to practice. This should make for some great performances on the track *and* field.

- **Sprints:** Our young bunch will be lead by Jared "Jerry" Smith and Kyle Partain.
- **Middle Distance:** This crew will include Hamzah Niazi and Matt McCusker. Some records should fall here.
- **Distance:** Shane Moore should have no trouble breaking school records here. This is our strongest group.
- **Field Events:** Sam Zoldock will be our main thrower, while Ari Jahanfar should take care of the jumps.

Overall we plan to build a firm base for future teams. Our March 10 meet at the Epstein School was rained out, so we are looking forward to March 15 at the Davis Academy track.

“Specials” Program: Featuring Ms. Kay Marshall, Enrichment Teacher

Ms. Kay Marshall has been at McGinnis Woods since 2005. She works with individual and small groups of students and provides enrichment in the areas of math and reading. She loves working with students and challenging them to excel in these areas. Ms. Kay is a Georgia native. She grew up in Camilla, a small town in South Georgia. Ms. Kay attended Valdosta State University and obtained a degree in Elementary Education. She then completed a Master's Degree in Middle School Education at Mercer University in Atlanta.

Prior to teaching at McGinnis Woods, she was Director of Programs and Curriculum at the Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers (GYSTC). GYSTC is a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting interest and enthusiasm in science and technology, particularly among elementary and middle school students and teachers. Ms. Kay provided guidance and supervision to thirteen regional centers around the state that made available teacher training and programs for students. She was active in Georgia Science Olympiad, Civil Air Patrol and Georgia Science Teachers Association. She also has experience teaching elementary and middle school in Fayette and Cherokee Counties.

Ms. Kay currently resides in Canton her with husband, Richard and three adorable cats. They have two grown children, Jim and Karen, and one granddaughter, Joni. In her spare time, Ms. Kay enjoys gardening, reading, and traveling. She is planning her summer garden and looks forward to fresh asparagus, tomatoes, and squash.



PA Board Update

Our Annual Boosterthon Fun Run was the best so far! With the great talent of the Boosterthon Fun Run team, the children focused on this years theme of STAND UP! The first grade Crabs broke the record of "most money raised" in the history of the Fun Run. As each class set their own fund raising goals, you may have heard about the Crabs success or seen Mr. Josh and Ms. Lauren dressed as Teletubbies, wearing diapers or receiving a pie in the face! Over all, our school raised over \$18,000 and 10% of each classrooms contributions will be spent directly by the teachers for that class. The balance of the raised funds will go for technology items including laptops, white boards and robotics kits.



Our Teacher Appreciation week kicked off March 1st! Our teachers, along with us parents, helped plant the seeds that make our children grow. We have spent the week expressing our thanks to our teachers and it was great. The Super Secret Teacher Raffle was a great success. Every teacher at McGinnis Woods received raffle tickets in their name. Everyday brought a different way to show our appreciation and we believe our teachers enjoyed it!



Important Dates:

May 14th: Scene on the Green Spring Party

Kindergarten Musical: *The Three Piggy Opera*



Lights, Camera, Action....The Kindergarteners did an amazing performance of The Three Piggy Opera on Thursday, February 25 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. The program was directed by Ms. Amber Marrero, Music Teacher at McGinnis Woods. The Three Piggy Opera is a rendition of the classic story, *The Three Little Pigs*, set to the tune of catchy music. The musical was well received, and the audience enjoyed the singing and dancing in addition to the costumes, props, and scenery. Mr.

Joe Parson, Art Instructor at McGinnis Woods, created the set design with the help of the afterschool students who eagerly assisted with set painting. The kindergarteners did an outstanding job and had an encore performance the following day for the preschool and pre-K classes.



Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

Happy Birthday Dr Seuss! March has been one month that Dr. Seuss would say “you would not, should not want to miss.” Our teachers have introduced this amazing author and illustrator to our children through his wonderful worlds of imagination and rhyme. We read many childhood favorites including: Fox in Sox while we wore our crazy socks; The Foot Book and then painted with our feet; If I Ran the Zoo, and then imagined what running a zoo would be like and finally Bartholomew and the Oobleck and made oobleck and witnessed the things it can do!

We hope spring is finally on it's way, because we are ready to spring forward into longer days of sunshine. We will be learning and observing the weather and graphing results which allow us to be weather people throughout the month. We will create lovely puffy clouds, umbrellas, and paper plates suns. We will discuss red and orange, green and blue, shiny yellow, and purple too. The students will be making beautiful rainbows and reviewing their colors at the same time. While making “roller rainbows” and “blend-a-rainbows” the children will observe a bit of science while watching colors mix and change into new colors right before their eyes. Children will also have the opportunity to discover how air moves and what it does by blowing bubbles, running with streamers and, if Mother Nature co-operates, try flying some kites.

Also in March, it's all about green and we will have lots of fun learning about Irish traditions, and those tricky leprechauns. They come while we are sleeping and make a huge mess in our classrooms and play with our toys. Do you think one of our classes will catch one?

And in the words of Dr Seuss, "A person's a person, no matter how small", thank you for sharing your very “small person” with us. It is so much fun to watch them learn and grow!



Field Trip of the Month: The King Center

In February, the fourth grade S.U.N.S. went on a field trip to The King Center and birth home. The field trip began with a visit to the firehouse where the students viewed a puppet show detailing Dr. King's life. The students were able to view photos of the King family in his youth. After the puppet show, they walked to the home where Dr. King was born and raised until the age of 12. The home has been restored to look like it did while Dr. King lived there as a boy. Finally, the class walked to The King Center. They were able to view pictures and video of some of Dr. King's most famous speeches. The students also learned about the Freedom Fighters' non-violent approach to civil rights.



A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the 5th Grade Team

The fifth grade FROGS are led by Ms. Nicole Seltzer and Ms. Felicia Taylor. The acronym FROGS stands for Friendly, Responsible, Organized, Giving Students.

Ms. Nicole graduated from Florida State University with a degree in English Literature and a minor in film studies. She moved to Georgia in 2000 and began working at McGinnis Woods in the preschool. In the ten years she has worked here, Ms. Nicole married her husband, Jeff and has had two children; Josh who is in KC Tigers and Rebecca, who is in 3TB. Ms. Nicole also earned her Middle Grades Certification in Language Arts and Social Studies as well as her Masters in the Art of Teaching. In her spare time, Ms. Nicole takes her son to Tae Kwon Do and soccer and also enjoys movies, music, sewing and arts and crafts.



Ms. Felicia, the newest member of the 5th grade team, graduated from Kennesaw State University with an English Education degree. She is currently pursuing her Reading Specialist and Gifted endorsements and would also like to begin working on her Master's degree in the near future. Ms. Felicia is an avid wildlife enthusiast and is passionate about saving endangered species. She loves to hike in the North Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina mountains when time allows and her hobbies include gardening, cooking, baking, listening to live music, and reading. Ms. Felicia loves to meet her favorite authors and have them sign her books. She also finds it interesting to listen to an author read his/her stories out loud and engage with their audience. It's a special time between authors and book lovers!

Student Spotlight

The Second Grade FISH created a book of poetry during their recent study of weather. This month we are featuring this creative poem written by Hannah Rogers.

What is icy? What is slight?
What do you see when the skies are white?
What brings damage? What hurts life?
What is powerful and has so much might?
What is freezing? What is huge?
It probably will hurt you.
Come on, belt it out: HAIL!



Afternoon Discovery Clubs Spotlight: Cooking Club

Students have a great time in the After School Discovery Cooking Club, literally “cooking up a storm!” Led by Ms. Tanya Smith, this hands-on class makes a variety of delicious recipes and yummy treats. Some of the favorite menu items include Kokosbollar (Cocoa Balls from Sweden, of course), Caramel Banana Crisp, twice-baked potatoes, pizza rolls, pretzel sticks, smoothies, cheesecakes, strawberry surprises and much more. The grand finale is always something exciting like ice cream in a bag with all the toppings. The children even learn about measurements while trying out their culinary skills and how even a slightly different amount of ingredients can change the entire outcome of a product. The students also learn that healthier choices can be made and still be yummy!



Student Council and Beta Club Update

The McGinnis Woods Student Council has been very busy! We have stocked and run the school store, hosted an order-in day from Riverside Pizza for staff and students, and we also organized the ordering and distribution of Candy-grams, valentines that students could purchase and send to special friends in our school. These fun events were, as always, a huge success. The money raised will be used to purchase outside recess equipment for all to enjoy.

Beta Club has been involved in the effort to help the people of Haiti. We spent several meetings preparing shoes collected from the shoe drive to be sent to Haiti. The total number of shoes collected was 1,278. We are also organizing a bake sale for Haiti relief for the week of March 16-19. In January, we sent a \$200 donation to Change for the Children, a charity working to find a cure for childhood diabetes.

Last December the Beta Club visited “My House” an organization that offers temporary housing and care for children with extensive medical needs who are awaiting entrance into the foster care system. Through our fall fundraising efforts, we were able to donate a large box of items from their wish list. Our team sang songs, played games and helped decorate for the holidays. We also enjoyed watching the children enjoy the goodies inside their individual stockings which we provided for them.

On March 26, we will be having another Chick-Fil-A order-in day to celebrate the conclusion of our Stanford Testing Week. Order-in day is always a highlight for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade!

