

McGinnis Woods Buzz



May 2012, Volume 3, Issue 9



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|-------|--|
| 5/24 | End 2011-2012 Term 4 Last Day of School |
| 5/28: | Memorial Day School Closed |
| 5/29: | First Day of Summer Wildcat Camp Begins |
| 8/11: | Back to School Picnic |
| 8/13: | First Day of School |

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

It is difficult to believe that the 2011-12 school year has come full circle. We have enjoyed 180 days full of learning, growth and adventure. I am so proud of the students and the progress they have made.

Our students, staff and families have participated in so many excellent educational opportunities including: Math and Science Nights, Career Day, Musicals, Plays, the annual Art Show, Book Fairs, Robotics competitions, Sporting Events, Yearbook Signings and so much more. Many of you have donated your time, talents, and money to make these events become a reality; that is why we dedicated this year's yearbook to you, our wonderful Volunteers!

As the final report cards of the year are being sent, we are readying for a fabulous Wildcat Summer Camp. We hope that your student will be able to join us for a week or the whole summer. We are also making plans for next year, but until then we wish you all a safe and fun-filled summer. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 11, at our Back to School Picnic.

Have a wonderful summer!

Ms. Mary



Wildcat Chat

2012 Sports Awards Ceremony

Wildcat athletes were honored on May 9, 2012, at the 4th Annual Sports Awards Ceremony, held in the cafeteria. Athletes received medals for their hard work and three special awards went to deserving athletes on each team.

Each team had an award for "Most Valuable Player" (MVP), "Most Improved Player" (MIP), and "Coaches' Award" (Cch). Award recipients for each team are listed below:

SPORTS AWARDS , 2012

| | Fall | Winter | | Spring |
|-----|----------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| | Soccer | B-Team Girls BB | | Girls Track |
| MVP | Kyle Partain | Maddie Moore | | Courtney Stuart |
| MIP | Ethan Montgomery | Gehna Gupta | | Maddie Moore |
| Cch | Sam Zoldock | Carley Bachism | | Maansi Gupta |
| | | | | |
| | <u>Volleyball</u> | <u>A-Team Girls BB</u> | | <u>Boys Track</u> |
| MVP | Maddie Sherbert | Kahterine Gall | | Ryan Field |
| MIP | Gabby Scott | Kehisha Johnson | | Jason Son |
| Cch | Kasey Baker | Teema Yassine | | Chris Lee |
| | | | | |
| | <u>Girls Cross Country</u> | B-Team Boys BB | | |
| MVP | Courtney Stuart | Ethan Montgomery | | |
| MIP | Sahyaja Munamala | Andrew Novokshonov | | |
| Cch | Muskaan Vaishnav | Alex Field | | |
| | | | | |
| | <u>Boys Cross Country</u> | A-Team Boys BB | | |
| MVP | Chris Lee | Ryan Field | | |
| MIP | Daniel Elkin | Brad Dull | | |
| Cch | | Sam Zoldock | | |

Our most prestigious award, "Athlete of the Year" (AOY) went to two very good athletes that played every sport at school to the highest of levels:

Boys AOY: Ryan Field

Girls AOY: Courtney Stuart

New this year was the "Legacy Award". This went to the athletes that spent their entire career at MWCDS and played every sport offered from the 5th or 6th Grade:

Ryan Field

Courtenay Morse

Sam Zoldock

We had a great year in Wildcat sports. We will be looking forward to next year, with Fall Sports of Soccer, Volleyball and Cross Country beginning August 16, 2012.

PA Board Update

Our Annual Fund money allowed us to purchase 44 additional laptops to supplement what we currently had. In addition, we were able to purchase six Promethean Interactive White Boards for the remaining classrooms in the school. All of these improvements were essential in creating and maintaining an excellent learning environment for our students.

The Fall Festival this year was stellar and the contributions for the raffle baskets made them standout. The monies raised allowed us to fund many of the wish list items on our teacher's lists.

Our biggest community outreach is our Angel Tree Holiday program to assist the families of North Fulton Community Charities. This is a great way to share our blessings with those less fortunate. However, our community giving continues throughout the year with food drives and denim day for various local charities.

The families at McGinnis Woods continue to enjoy our Annual Holiday Shoppe and this year we opened up to parents for the first time. What a great success. We look forward to being your one-stop shop next year, too!



Our annual Fun Run was a great challenge for our students who not only learned character building but also raised funds for our outdoor classroom. This space along with the one mile trail turned out beautifully and will enable us to host cross country meets at our facility. Without you, this would not have been a reality. The children have already been enjoying the classroom. We achieved 100% participation and students were rewarded with a water fight which resulted in a terrific afternoon.

Speaking of fun, the school year would not be complete without the social events that bring us together as a community. Our Annual Family Valentine's Dance at Andretti's was sold out and the teacher auction items were a huge hit. A special "Thank You" to all the teachers who donated their time to benefit our school.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

On May 12th the Drama Club presented two shows of the Jungle Book at the Dancing Goat Theatre in Johns Creek. Students from Pre-k-8th took the stage, many for the first time, as villagers, animals and, Mogli to perform to a SOLD OUT crowd.

Under the enthusiastic guidance of Director, Xylina Nuckles and Associate Director, David Franklin, parents and volunteers painted and gathered costuming. Additional Costuming was prepared by Costumer, Abby Willis. The show was filled with scenery, elaborate costuming and convincing acting.



Congratulations to Our 2012 Graduates

McGinnis Woods Country Day School would like to congratulate our 2012 graduates. Congratulations to TJ Baruwa, Brad Dull, Paul Elkin, Ryan Field, Mackenzie Johnson, Courtenay Morse, Kyle Partain, Steven Posmer, HiJu Ro, Madeline Sherbert, and Sam Zoldock. We wish you all the best in the future. May all your dreams come true!



Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

These are exciting days in the preschool! This month, we had a visit from Mama Koku, a well-respected and sought-after story-teller from the Atlanta area. She brought lots of colorful characters and music with her, involving each child in a variety of listening and speaking activities. Story-tellers are fantastic for building literacy skills such as attentive listening, speaking aloud, oral/auditory comprehension, and vocabulary. If you are searching for dynamic activities for your children over the summer, try visiting the [Forsyth](#) or [Fulton County Libraries](#) for Story time!



Many of you may be preparing for summer vacations and taking a break from school, but we in the preschool are going to be going strong in the next few months! A few of the exciting activities and programs we have in store for our children in the coming days are:

The Water Park arrives!! Get ready for some fun...baby pools, fountains, and inflatable water play devices will be set up on the playground and the kids will visit every week. Stay tuned for the schedule and other information.

All classrooms (except for infants) will begin the Zoophonics program! We will be introducing this exciting and effective program, which combines letter-sounds, fun animal characters, kinesthetic and whole-body movement, music, and games. Zoophonics will help the kids master their letters and sounds in a fun new way.

Lots of exciting new themes and summer activities, too!

Be sure to join us for all of the fun as we move into summer at the preschool!

1800's Day: Third Graders Experience Colonial Life

Our third graders had the chance to explore life in the 1800's on 1800's Day. To celebrate their reading of Laura Ingles Wilder's Little House In The Big Woods, the third graders experienced first-hand what life was like during colonial times.

Students traveled through 8 unique stations simulating specific aspects of colonial life. Students even dressed the part, girls in long skirts, aprons and bonnets and boys sporting suspenders and rolled up jeans. First thing in the morning, students made their own butter to put on piping hot pancakes. Then, they participated in colonial jobs. Each student got to do wood working and whittling. Next, they visited colonial craft stations which included making clove apples, rag dolls, and simple cross stitch samplers. Lastly, students finished their time in a colonial school and playing traditional games. The students made lanterns and even wrote with quill pens! Everyone had a great time celebrating 1800's day and hopefully created memories that will last a lifetime.



“Jump Rope for Heart” Event

This year’s “Jump Rope For Heart” event was a success! The weather was warm and the sun was shining bright on all of the students faces! As the event began, students were separated at random into four teams and each team was assigned a group leader. We then started speaking about the human heart and learned how to find our own resting heart rates. The group leaders turned out to be a huge help because they all acted like well-trained team-captains! These leaders helped organize and assign roles for their teams.

Before the jumping competition started, we warmed up to get our hearts beating and our blood flowing! After a few minutes of exercise, we began discussing hearts and how the number of our own heart beats should change according to what activities we are doing. After taking another measurement of our heart rate, we decided that our heart was beating much faster and working much harder to pump blood for us when exercising!

Each team was then told to decide upon who would be entered into each of the three jump-rope contest categories. The first category was a “fastest-jumper contest,” where children and adults would vote on who appeared to be the fastest jumper. The next contest was the “trick contest,” where children were allowed to show off their amazing moves in the form of any jump-rope trick that they could think of! The last part of the contest was called the “longest jumper,” where the student with the ability to jump-rope without stopping or making a mistake would be crowned the winner!

Overall, everyone had a good time as we learned about hearts, and raised money for a good cause!

“Specials” Program: Featuring Ms. Jenn, School Counselor

Ms. Jenn has been at McGinnis Woods for 5 years as our school counselor. In addition to the classroom guidance lessons she teaches, she meets with groups of students, individual students, and parents. She is also the advisor for Jr. Beta Club and Student Council.

Ms. Jenn relocated to the Atlanta area in 1996 from Syracuse, New York. There she received her bachelor's degree from the State University of New York College at Oswego with a certification in elementary education and a middle grades extension. Since that time she worked for Forsyth County School System and received a master's degree from Georgia State University in school counseling and a gifted endorsement. She has taught third, fourth, and sixth grades and has also served as a school counselor in an elementary setting prior to joining McGinnis Woods.

Ms. Jenn lives in the Alpharetta area with her husband, three children, Tayler (9), Drew (6), and Addie (3), and their Lab, Mickey. In her spare time she loves to scrapbook, run, and spend time with her family.



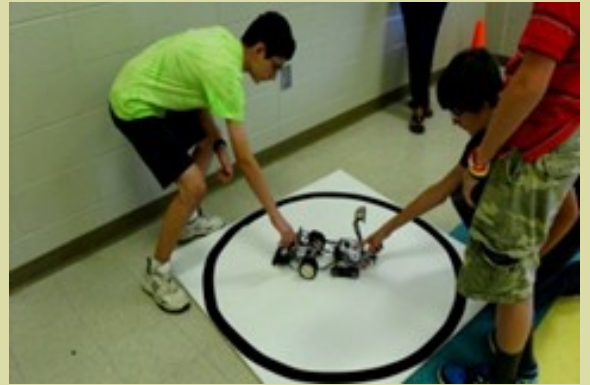
The Q and U Wedding: A Pre-K Tradition

Thursday, May 17 was a beautiful day for a special Pre-K tradition, the Q and U wedding. 54 PreK students sported their best letter people attire for the festivities. Three different sets of Miss Qs and Mr. Us said their vows in front of family and friends promising “*to always work together, be nice to each other and form beautiful words together*”. After the ceremony everyone enjoyed a lovely reception of pizza, fruit, vegetables and mock friendship cake on the playground. We all had fun marveling at the many amazing changes that have taken place in our Pre-K students this year!



Robotics Team Wins the Forsyth SumoBots Challenge!

On Saturday May 5, a team of seven students represented McGinnis Woods at the Forsyth Lego Sumobots Challenge at Vickery Creek Middle School. There were ten teams competing, mostly from Forsyth County Public Schools. The team worked really hard after school for two months preparing for the tournament. Each student designed, built and programmed a SumoBot using Lego Mindstorms parts.



The tournament is played on a circular platform four feet in diameter with a 2 ½ inch black border around the outside. Two robots battle to see which robot can force the other out of the ring first. The matches are ‘best two out of three wins’. The robots are programmed before the match and must operate without assistance from the team during the match. In between matches the team members work furiously to adjust their programs and revamp their robots as needed. Sumo Robots need to be able to locate their opponents, move toward them, push them toward the outside, and recognize proximity to the edge of the ring; all while avoided being pushed out.

Team members were: Paul Elkin, William Leonard, Sachin Rajeev, Siddarth Reddy, Emma Tepper, Nathan Weaver, and Yongjae Yu. The team was coached by Rebecca McNutt, Tyler Driskell and Steve Wells. We were the only team to have each member bring his own robot and to give every team member an equal chance to compete. We had our own tournament just before the competition began and Emma Tepper, Sachin Rajeev and Paul Elkin were selected to battle for McGinnis Woods.



During the Qualifying Round, our team was solidly in the middle of the pack. In the Elimination Round, Paul Elkins’ robot dominated. His was the only undefeated robot in elimination giving McGinnis Woods the championship.

Spring Music Performance

On May 8, our students in 4-8 presented their spring concert in front of a packed house. They sang and danced using a variety of props bringing their musical selections to life. The audience was serenaded by our 8th grade soloists who seized the opportunity to showcase their talents. The show opened with Courtenay Morse performing “Shy” from the Broadway musical *Once upon a Mattress*. Madelynn Sherbert then sang “Under the Weather” by KT Tunstall and Mackenzie Johnson closed out the night with “When I look at you” by Miley Cyrus from the movie *Last Song*. These ladies will be truly missed by our chorus as they have provided both leadership and talent in Chorus this year.