



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

5/14: Scene on the Green

5/17: Drama Performance
6 pm, LOL Church

5/18: Field Day

5/19: Awards Day

5/20: Last Day of School
Report Cards

5/24: Summer Camp
Begins

5/31: Memorial Day
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 ...

A Message From Ms. Mary...1	Field Trip of the Month.....3	Student Spotlight.....5
Wildcat Chat2	Preschool Corner.....4	Choral Performance.....6
Discovery Clubs2	Cinco de Mayo.....4	“Specials” Programs: Featuring Mr. Mike.....6
PA Board Update.....3	Our Teachers.....5	

A Message From Ms. Mary

What an amazing year we have had at McGinnis Woods Country Day School! Our students, staff and families have participated in so many excellent educational opportunities including: Math and Science Night, Career Days, Science Fairs, Robotics, Musicals, an Art Show, Book Fairs, Sporting Events and so much more. We have had many, many volunteers help us with these endeavors and we are very thankful.



Each year brings with it new challenges and opportunities. This year we won our first trophy! Our girls' Track and Field Team were the Runners-Up of the Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference. The girls placed in many of the individual events and had a fun time competing and enjoying the results of all of their hours of practice.

This Friday evening is our final PA event of the year, our Scene on the Green. I hope you will be joining us for this fun night of music featuring Mr. Brad's band, Crib Lizard, food from Jim and Nick's, beautiful auction items, bingo and the movie, *Tooth Fairy*.

The next few days are packed with many school activities, so be sure to keep your calendars on hand and join us the Band Concert, Field Day, Awards Day, Citizen of the Month Lunch, and the end of the year class parties.

As the final report cards of the year are being prepared, and we are eagerly making plans for a fabulous Summer Camp and next year, we wish you all a safe and fun-filled summer. We look forward to seeing you throughout the summer, at camp, and on Saturday, August 14, for our Back to School Picnic.

Wildcat Chat

Track Team Takes 2nd!

The Girls' Track & Field Team finished a surprising second place at the Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference Track & Field Championships last month. They were leading after the first day and scored an incredible 93 points overall. This is quite an achievement for such a young team.



MWCDS had three Conference Champions: Tomisin Odetoyinbo: 400m, Adrienne Lee: 1600m, and Courtney Stuart: 3200m. Four athletes scored in every event they were entered in: Tomisin Odetoyinbo, Adrienne Lee, Brittany Johnson, and Emily Moffit.

This was a true team effort with every team member contributing to a successful season.

With our sports seasons ending for the year, we are all looking forward to next year and what it will bring.

Afterschool Discovery Clubs: Scrapbooking

The Scrapbooking Afterschool Discovery Club, led by Ms. Camberly Beatty, is a way for students to channel their creative energy and create lasting memories. Students are asked to come up with a theme, such as a special vacation, a family gathering or holiday and bring in photos related to the identified theme. Ms. Camberly provides all of the scrapbooking tools including items such as paper, books, and embellishments from which the kids may choose. By the end of each session, each student has a completed scrapbook to take home and share with their family and friends. What a great way to preserve those special memories!



PA Board Update

As the school year winds down, so does the PA. The school sponsored Spring Carnival was a great success. The children participated in a variety of activities while the adults enjoyed the food and comradery. With only one more event on the calendar, the PA Board is working to create a great family event for the end of the year. The Spring Scene on the Green Party is on Friday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m. beginning with music by Mr. Brad's band, Crib Lizard. Dinner will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. Before it gets dark enough for a great family movie, you will also have an opportunity to bid on some great auction items or enjoy a game of BINGO! This evening will have something for everyone, so you won't want to miss it..



May 14, 2010 - Annual Spring Scene on the Green Party with music, games, auction, dinner and a movie!

Field Trip of the Month: Overnight in Chattanooga, TN

The Third Grade Stars and Geckos built many long lasting memories at our recent over night field trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee. First we visited Ruby Falls and saw some amazing geological features. The most unique being a 145-foot underground waterfall deep into the cave almost 1,200 feet below Lookout Mountain's surface. After the visit to the cave we spent more time enjoying Lookout Tower. Parents rested and students played in the fun forest playground before heading off on our next adventure.

Next, we went to the Tennessee Aquarium where we enjoyed thrilling action in *Wild Ocean 3-D*. After that, it was non-stop touring, animal encounters, and behind the scenes educational programs throughout our visit. Finally, we ended our stay sleeping along side sharks, stingrays, jellyfish, sea turtles, and more. In the morning, we even got to feed the otters breakfast. The third graders had an amazing, fun-filled time sleeping in the deep at the Tennessee Aquarium.



Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

As the elementary school wraps up the school year, our preschool program remains strong. Although some of our children will be moving on to summer school in the elementary school and PreK in the fall, many of our children will remain in the preschool. It is remarkable to see how much our children have grown and learned!

On May 7, the Preschool sponsored our annual St Jude's Trike-A-Thon. This is a fun program that demonstrates proper bike and toy riding safety. More importantly, it encourages sharing as children assist in raising money for a worthy cause. St Jude's is the world's premier center for research, development and treatment of pediatric cancer and other catastrophic children's diseases. No family ever pays for treatments not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never turned away. Operating costs are primarily covered by public contributions. The preschool children and their families are very proud to have raised a little over **\$1,700**. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We have an exciting summer planned. Our preschoolers are unable to go on field trips, so we will bring the field trips to them! On June 7th, we will have a visit from a zoologist to provide a unique hands-on experience about our ecosystem. The children may rub their hands over the rough skinned bearded Dragon or may pet a chinchilla straight from the Andes Mountains of South America. It will be great for our children to encounter these exotic creatures in this safe, engaging environment.

During the week of June 14th, we will learn about western times of the past, wear our cowboy attire and have real pony rides. These are just a small sample of the many fun and exciting plans we have for the summer. We hope you will join us.



Kindergarteners Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

"Hola" from the kindergarten team! All of the kindergarten classes have been studying Mexico during the month of May, and what better way to learn about a country than to celebrate one of its holidays! So on May 5th, we enjoyed Cinco de Mayo together. We had some yummy party food of chips and salsa along with some tropical fruit. We ended the "fiesta" with some piñata fun! The Sponge Bob and rocket piñatas were filled with all kinds of candies and toys. We all enjoyed this special event - you could say it was "muy fantastico!"



A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the Middle School Team

At the end of the hall, you will find the middle grade team which consists of Ms. Pam Charlton (Math), Ms. Amie Buckner (Science), Ms. Felicia Taylor (Language Arts), and Ms. Nicole Seltzer (Social Studies). Aside from academics, these teachers strive to help middle school students obtain the right balance, as they transition into young adults. Class sizes are small and instruction is individualized to meet the needs of all learners, so academic potential can be met. Independence is promoted, and students have a voice in their education.

Ms. Amie has been with McGinnis Woods since 2000. Her love lies with science and inquiry in the classroom. She strives to be an integral part of all students' curiosities about the world around them and helps facilitate learning through scientific inquiry. Her science classes are usually bustling with lab experiments, research, or the beloved debates! Ms. Amie and her husband, Mr. Brad (Supernovas class), have lived in Georgia for eleven years and have a dog named Nixie, whom all of Mr. Brad's past and present students know, and Romeo, the horse.

Ms. Pam Charlton grew up in the heartland of Illinois and graduated from Illinois State University. She did graduate work at the University of Illinois and then went on to teach sixth grade in self-contained classrooms in both Illinois and Florida. When she relocated to Atlanta, she took a position as the upper school math coordinator for a private school. That was when she discovered that teaching math all day long was a perfect fit for her. This is now her fifth year at McGinnis Woods, and she can't imagine doing anything else. She has one son, Zach, who is 20 years old and attends Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi.

Ms. Felicia, the newest member of the 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. 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 Master's 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.



Student Spotlight

The Kindergarten CATS were asked to write a paragraph about school. This month, we are featuring a paragraph written by Ashray Dumpa.

School is fun. We learn about everything at school. We have fun in the classroom. School makes me happy when I go there.

Ashray



4th—8th Grade Choral Performance: “Let’s Go to the Movies”

The 4th – 8th grade chorus recently performed the musical, “Let’s Go to the Movies,” at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. The musical was a review of music from the golden age of film and included tunes such as “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” “Seventy-six Trombones,” and “Bare Necessities.” The audience was quite engaged as toes were tapping and heads were nodding to the beat. It was truly a fun and entertaining evening, and everyone left smiling and humming!



“Specials” Program: Featuring Mr. Mike Williams, After School and Summer Camp Director

Michael Williams, better known as Mr. Mike, is the After School and Summer Camp Director. He is also assistant to Ms. Lisa Aber in the Pre-K4B Bugs! Mr. Mike has been with McGinnis Woods since April, 2007, and has enjoyed every minute of it.

He is originally from the Chicagoland area and is a Chicago sports fan at heart! He attended both Illinois State University and Southern Illinois University, with concentrations in Education and Environmentalism.

Mr. Mike has held a number of positions, but when he began his teaching career in 1996 in Early Childhood Education working with three and four year olds, he never looked back! He quickly took over running the After School Programs and Summer Camp Programs for a Children’s Discovery Center, and later at the first Crème de la Crème in Illinois. He moved to Northern California in 2000 and continued his education eventually becoming a Preschool Director in 2005.

In 2007, Mr. Mike received an offer from his family that he couldn’t refuse, and made his way down South to beautiful Georgia. He and his beloved cat, Loki, moved in with his brother and his family. His nieces, Mariana and Adriana, attend McGinnis Woods.

He claims it has been one of the best choices he has made throughout his life.

In his spare time, he enjoys numismatics, hiking, camping, mountain biking, swimming, and of course...being at McGinnis Woods.

Mr. Mike has planned a fun and exciting Summer Camp called “McGinnis Woods Wanderings: Around the State in 60 Days.” Be sure to check out all the details at www.mcginniswoods.org. We would love to have you join us for the summer!

