

McGinnis Woods Buzz



November 2011, Volume 3, Issue 3



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 11/14: Holiday Angel Trees for NFCC Begins this Week
- 11/14: Thanksgiving Feast 4th-8th, 12 p.m.
- 11/15: Thanksgiving Feast 2nd-3rd, 12 p.m.
- 11/16: Thanksgiving Feast K-1st, 12 p.m.
- 11/17: Thanksgiving Feast Pre-K, 11:30 a.m.
- 11/18: Non-Uniform Day
- 11/23: No Classes Afterschool Only
- 11/24- School Closed
- 11/25: Happy Thanksgiving

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...

Message From Ms. Mary..... 1	Field Trip of the Month.....4	Candy Donation.....7
Wildcat Chat..... 2	Preschool Corner.....5	Outdoor Classroom.....7
PA Board 3	Classroom Spotlight.....5	Spooky Science.....7
Science Fair.....3	"Specials Program".....6	
About our Teachers.....4	Secret Holiday Shoppe.....6	

A Message From Ms. Mary

The year has turned its circle,
The seasons come and go.
The harvest is all gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.

Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields, their yellow grain.
So open wide the doorway-
Thanksgiving comes again!
-anonymous



Fall is a busy time at our school. In addition to learning about all of their varied curriculum topics, students have also participated in many special activities including Red Ribbon Week, first quarter report cards, Fall Festival, and our annual Art Fair.

Ms Jen, school counselor, also held student council elections. Twenty-one students "threw their hats into the ring" and ran to be student council officers. We are proud of each student who took the time and effort to make posters, campaign stickers, tape campaign ads and share new ways to improve our school during the morning announcements. Each student ran a fair and creative campaign. The election results for the 2011-12 school year are: Mackenzie Johnson, President; Maddy Sherbert, Vice President; Courtney Stuart, Secretary; and Teema Yassine, Treasurer.

Be sure to join us during the week of November 14th at our annual Thanksgiving Feasts. Students in PreK4-8th grades will perform special songs and plays while we take a few moments out of our busy days to share a fabulous meal as we connect with friends old and new and reflect on our many blessings as a school family.

Each family will also have an opportunity to choose an ornament from our Holiday Angel Trees. This McGinnis Woods tradition is a great way to teach our students about caring for our community and being a blessing to others during this holiday season.

From all of us at McGinnis Woods, we wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Wildcat Chat

Wildcat Basketball Season Preview, 2011-2012

With the new Basketball Season right around the corner and games about to begin, how will our teams do? There are some promising signs that all the teams will do well. We have a record number participants and many of the players have multiple years of experience in the game.

Girls A-Team

The girls come back this year in good shape after finishing 6-2 last season. The Wildcats bring back three starters and some new, but experienced players.



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Returners **Katherine Gall, Courtney Stuart, and Courtenay Morse** expect to be real contributors to the team. New players **Maddy Sherbert, Kehisha Johnson, and Sahyaja Munamala** look to make their mark on the team.

Coach Fairbanks has confidence that the team should do well and be a play-off contender.

Girls B-Team

Our B-Team looks to be a bit better than last year's. They come to the season with some more experience and better overall skill. They will play a full schedule this year as well as a season ending tournament in January.

Look for some strong performances from players **Maddie Moore, Carly Bachism, and Gabby Scott**. Coach Robin Hogan will have the team ready for their opening game on December 7.

Boys A-Team

High expectations for this team are quite realistic. Is this a championship team? This team returns many starters from last year's 7-1 tournament championship team. With the momentum from the successful soccer season pushing them on, the year looks bright.

Starters **Sam Zoldock, Ryan Field, and Brad Dull** lead the team in experience. New players that look to make an impact are **Hiriam Hicks and Joey Anzilotti**.

Coach Jim Stuart is readying the team for the coming challenge of the season. The team opens on November 17 at the Cottage School.

Boys B-Team

This team is the first boys B-Team ever at our school. With the basketball program growing, adding a B-Team was the next step. The team looks to be a good one.

All first year players, the B-Team is lead by 5th graders **Will McCusker, Ethan Montgomery, and Alex Field**. Coach Heather Bailey has been working hard with the team and they look forward to their first game on December 8.

Be sure to come out and support our Wildcat Teams during the exciting Basketball Season.

PA Board Update

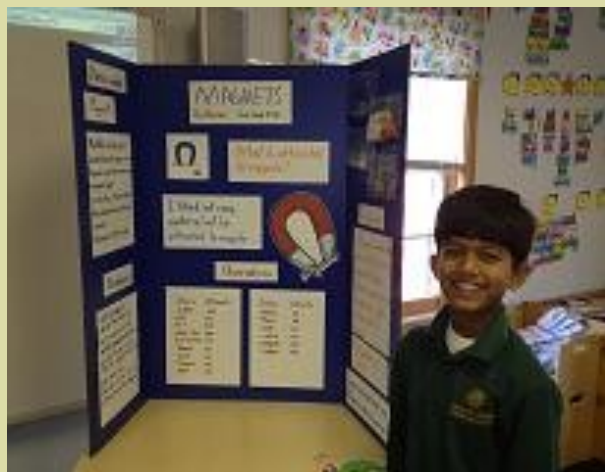
The Fall Festival PA sponsored Basket Raffle was a huge success; we made \$3,927 from tickets sales. To those who donated an item for their classroom basket- thank you. Your generosity directly impacts the students at McGinnis Woods, and the PA truly values your ongoing support. The proceeds from our basket raffle will be going back to the teachers. Below is a list of this year's basket winners:

Money Tree - The Longo Family
Disney Mania (Girls) - The Chinthala Family
Disney Mania (Boys) - The Bonda Family
Baker's Delight - The Yassine Family, gifted to Ms Josie!
Let's Go Legos - The Bowles Family
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - The Stuart Family
Let's Move - The Scott (LaDonna) Family
Family Fun -The Bowles Family
Shop 'Til You Drop - The Chaubal Family

With the holiday season quickly approaching we have two more PA events before we welcome in 2012. The PA is sponsoring local families through NFCC for the holiday season. This is part of the PA's charitable works, so please help us to make a difference in the life of a local family this coming holiday season. As well, the children will have an opportunity to shop in the Secret Holiday Shoppe December 5th through 8th. Look for more information about the Secret Holiday Shoppe in this newsletter!

Annual Science Fair: 2nd—4th Grades

Students in 2-4th grades proudly brought their Science Fair projects to their classes this past Monday. Enthusiasm filled the classrooms as the students shared their knowledge about their science experiments. The students did a fantastic job of public speaking as they taught their classmates about interesting science concepts that they had researched and experimented with including: A Day in Your Heart, Crystal Wonderland, Egg Floatation, Light and Color, and many more.



A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the Third Grade



We have a wonderful group of teachers working with our third graders: Kristen Spradlin, Samantha Beckman, Jessica Kochanek, and Tara Dervely. They make up the third grade team known as the STARS and the DOGS.

Ms. Kristen has been teaching at McGinnis Woods for seven exciting years. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia State University and has been a teacher for twelve years. She has two children, Connor and Ella. Additionally, she has a dog, a fish, and two tree frogs. In her free time, she enjoys reading, going to the movies, taking nature walks, shopping and going to the beach.

This is Ms. Jessica's first year teaching at McGinnis Woods. She recently graduated from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. After graduation, she was a substitute teacher for Cobb County Public

Schools as well as a tutor for a private academy. She is certified to teach K-5 and middle grades science and math. Ms. Jessica married her "high school sweetheart" in December 2009. They reside in Canton along with their two dogs, three cats, and a bunny named Buster.

Ms. Sam grew up in Sandy Springs and graduated with her B.S. in Elementary Education from Kennesaw State University. This will be her sixth year at McGinnis Woods, and her first year teaching the third grade. Ms. Sam has been married to her husband Brian for 13 years, and they have two children, Cole and Alexandria, in addition to two dogs, Sophie and Champs. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, watching television, and spending time with her family.

Ms. Tara is excited to be a member of the third grade team at McGinnis Woods. She recently finished school at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington where she completed her teaching degree and received her teaching certification. Ms. Tara is originally from Louisiana but grew up in Atlanta. She has a cat named Sunni and in her spare time, she likes to run, travel, and go to concerts.

Field Trip of the Month: Pow Wow at Stone Mountain



The first grade CATS and PANDAS went on an amazing field trip on November 4, 2011, to the Stone Mountain Pow Wow! The two classes have been studying Native American Heroes, so this was a wonderful culminating activity. Students were very excited to experience the Native American culture up close. Students saw Native Americans dancing and singing. Different types of shelters such as teepees and huts were on display. The students really enjoyed meeting and talking with Native Americans who were dressed in their traditional clothes. Everyone had

lots of fun buying souvenirs from all of the unique vendors. Dream catchers, arrow heads, jewelry and bows and arrows seemed to be favorite purchases. This trip was a great way to bring history and the Native American culture to life!



Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

Here in the preschool we are amazed that it is already November. Time really does fly when you are having fun!

We had an amazing Halloween with our wonderful parade and parties. The children were so excited to show off their costumes and we really appreciate all the parent participation. Make sure to stop by the front lobby and see the video highlighting the fun filled day!

Don't forget to drop by our Pre-K /4C room to shop at our 2nd Annual Scholastic Book Fair from November 7th-November 11th. This year we are also excited to introduce the online fair that starts November 4th and ends November 14th. The books ordered online will be mailed to the school and distributed by us. The profits made through the fair will allow us to purchase new books and additional classroom materials for the preschool.



Our November themes are: **Fruits and Vegetables, Families, Let's Give Thanks and Sharing and Good Manners.** The teachers have a cornucopia of exciting, educational activities planned for your little ones.

We are looking forward to the Holiday Season and all the special activities to come. We are partnering with NFCC Charity's Adopt-a-Family Program again this year. Additional information about how you can make an impact in our community will be sent soon.

This year the preschoolers will also be visited by Santa on December 7th. Pictures will be taken.

As we do each month we would like to take a moment to recognize one of our hard working teachers. This month, Ms. Sara in our Senior Infant Room is being honored. Ms. Sara is a loving and caring teacher who really takes pride in her little babies. She is also a proud parent of three McGinnis Woods' students!

Thanks for all that you do each and every day to make our preschool a happy place to learn and grow!

Classroom Spotlight: Happy Birthday, Johnny!



The Kindergarten Monkeys recently celebrated something very special – Johnny Appleseed's birthday! Johnny Appleseed was an American pioneer who introduced apple trees to large parts of our country. He became an American legend while still alive, largely because of his kind and generous ways. The Monkeys learned all about Johnny and his work... and had a little fun in the process! The Kindergarten Monkeys tasted and graphed their favorite types of apples, measured distance in a seed-spitting contest, and followed a recipe to make delicious apple pies!



“Specials” Program: Featuring Ms. Jacki Freeman and the Media Center

After ten years of working at McGinnis Woods, Ms. Jacki Freeman continues to love what she does more and more each day. She has been very fortunate to wear many hats while at “the Woods” including: pre-school teacher, assistant director, assistant to the principal, and librarian. She has certainly enjoyed each position, but holds the position of librarian closest to her heart.



Nothing brightens Ms. Jacki's day more than to see a student excited about reading. Whether it's the latest *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Ranger's Apprentice* or a classic like *The Wind in the Willows*, she loves watching students get excited about reading. Ms. Jacki truly enjoys helping students discover secret worlds, interesting characters and faraway lands. According to Ms. Jacki, there is nothing comparable to finding a book and becoming completely lost in its pages, imagining you are actually part of the story. The feeling of anticipation of finding out what's on the next page and not wanting to stop reading is what she hopes reading does for every student.

Ms. Jacki encourages parents to not only read every day to their children, but to also listen to their children read. Time should be set aside each night to read and cuddle with a favorite book. Additionally, introduce your child to classic books you loved as a child. By doing this, parents demonstrate how important reading is.

Ms. Jacki & her husband, Chris, have twin girls Marian and Kristen whom both attend McGinnis Woods.

Secret Holiday Shoppe...Coming Soon!

It is almost time for....the Secret Holiday Shoppe! We are very excited about our Shoppe this year, and we hope that you choose to participate in this fun and educational experience.

The Secret Holiday Shoppe is a “store” designed so that students may purchase items on their own for family, friends, teachers and occasionally themselves. Each class is assigned a designated time to shop. Three to five year old students have the guidance of a parent volunteer while they shop. Each purchase is then wrapped for the kids as appropriate. The majority of items in the Shoppe are priced from \$5 to \$15. This is a great opportunity for children to learn about budgeting and handling money.



Please mark your calendars and join us for some seasonal fun at this year's Secret Holiday Shoppe. The store will be open Monday, December 5th to Thursday, December 8th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. New this year, we will have one evening of shopping on Monday, December 5th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Come with your child or by yourself.

Many volunteers are always needed for this event. If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Debbie Cobb at emaildebbiecobb@gmail.com

Halloween Candy Donation

Thanks to the leadership of Nurse Penny, McGinnis Woods' students collected close to 100 pounds of Halloween Candy to be sent to the troops. Thanks for your generosity!



Students Enjoy Outdoor Classroom

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. ~**Albert Einstein**
We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. **Navajo Proverb**



In late October, Kevin Smith was here from Keep Forsyth County Beautiful to help us create a path to our outdoor classroom. We are lucky to have such a beautiful wooded area complete with a stream, bridge and three tables under a roof. The entrance to the trail is located by the school pool. There is yellow tape on trees marking the way for now. We plan to have a day in the spring where students, parents and teachers help make some improvements to the path and outdoor classroom area.

For now the classes are welcome to use the area to take a walk, collect leaves, read a book or do a lesson. There have even been sightings of some hopping four-legged nature friends!



Afterschool Fun: Spooky Science

Many students from PreK-4th grades participated in the Spooky Science classes on October 25 and 26 from 3:30-4:30 pm. Ms. Sam and Ms. Wendy had some interesting and spooky experiments each day for the groups to complete. The younger students made "Screaming Cups" and "Dancing Ghosts." The older students made "Flying Ghosts" and



tried some dry ice potions. Everyone made a "Fiendish Fizz" to drink with some Halloween cookies. Who knew science could be both spooky and fun?

