

McGinnis Woods Buzz



November 2013 Volume 7, Issue 3



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz . . .

Message from Ms. Mary...	1	FalCan Food Drive.....	8
Wildcat Chat.....	2	Field Trip Feature.....	8
PA Update.....	3	Teacher Grant Thanks.....	9
Preschool Corner.....	4		
Thanksgiving Feasts	5		
Feast Photos.....	6		
4th graders.....	7		

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/9	NFCC Holiday Items due
12/9	Chorus Concert Dress Rehearsal 6-7pm
12/10	Chorus Concert Lord of Life Church
12/11	Student Council Meeting 8:00 am in the library
12/11	New Student Open House 9:30-10:30 am
12/20	Holiday Parties Report Cards

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 life-long love of learning.

A Message From Ms. Mary

November is coming to a close and here at school, we have just enjoyed our 13th annual Thanksgiving Feast Week. This year, like many others, was filled with wonderful musical performances, costumes, colorful placemats and centerpieces, food, and friends all packaged in an opportunity to slow down and take a few moments to be reminded of the many blessings we have, especially our children and McGinnis Woods Country Day School.



Many of the families at McGinnis Woods have shared with me through the years, that they consider our school to be a tangible extension of their actual families who may live out of state or country, or who are busy raising their own families. We at McGinnis Woods, take this reality to heart and work to care for each of our students as only family can. We encourage, support and listen to our students. We tie their shoes, zip their coats and bandage their knees. We celebrate their successes and strategize ways to overcome their struggles. Growing up and making good choices does not come easy or happen overnight for many, and that is why each of the staff at McGinnis Woods realize that we must work together to teach our students to be productive members of our learning community and to flourish in this safe and nurturing learning environment as they prepare for the future.

Thanks for entrusting your student to our care. We want the best for each of them and work tirelessly to craft lessons that will inspire, model behavior that will be worth emulating and foster the best in each of our students.

So as we enter this holiday season, we wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are thankful that you are a part of our family!

Mary Johnson
Principal

Wildcat Chat

Basketball Season is finally here!

The Wildcats are off to a great start! We started playing games this past week after practicing hard for our upcoming season. All of our players are having fun learning how to be better basketball players!! However, more importantly we are learning how to be good sports and developing character.

We are fortunate enough to have great parents and teachers who are helping us learn not only how to play the game, but how to be better, stronger teammates and great sports. Thanks to Mr. Jim Stuart and Mrs. Heather Bailey for coaching the boys and Mrs. Robyn Hogan for coaching our girls this season. We could not do it without all their hard work and dedication to our players.

Our B team girls are undefeated so far this season and we recently had to tell our girls to give the other team a break, because we were outscoring them by so much! Our A team girls have had two games so far, both tough losses, but they looked great on the court. We look forward to a great girls' season.



Our boys have been playing their hearts out and losing by 1 or 2 points each game. The games are really close and so much fun to watch. No matter whether we win or lose big, we know that we will learn big, from our experiences this season. Come out and support our wildcats.

GO WILDCATS!!

PA Update

A McGinnis Woods tradition of sponsoring several local families in need through the North Fulton Community Charities Program began this week. This sponsorship program allows McGinnis Woods students and families to experience the joy of helping others! Many families are struggling to make ends meet within our community and this is especially true during the holiday season. Extending our spirit of giving and caring is essential this time of year, so please, don't walk away from the NFCC Wish Tree without picking up an ornament and contributing something.

In both the Preschool and the Elementary School our NFCC Wish Trees are decorated with wish ornaments provided by the families that participate in the program. We have added several Publix and Kroger gift cards so that each family can purchase a full holiday dinner. No one needs to go hungry over the holidays.

Coming Soon.....Holiday Shoppe....Sssshhhh, it's a secret! This is a program that is fun and educational. Holiday Shoppe allows the children to "shop" (within a parentally approved budget) for their parents and loved ones without them having to make another trip to the busy shops and malls, or even knowing what has been purchased! The kids love this opportunity to surprise you, so please take advantage of this fun program. Information sheets have already gone home and will need to be completed and returned by December 2, 2013.

During our Fun Run fundraiser in September, money was raised that was earmarked for Teacher Grants. These grant requests have started coming in, and when the purchases are finalized we will update you with the new items that were purchased, or new programs that were implemented. Thank you for your continued support.

We wish you all a great Thanksgiving holiday!!



Preschool Corner

The Preschool has been so busy welcoming fall and learning about many important topics. The themes we have focused on are: The Miraculous Human Body, Nutrition, Families and, of course, Thanksgiving.

Children learned all about how to make healthy food choices to keep their families healthy and about how their bodies work to keep them healthy, too! One way to keep everyone healthy is to dress appropriately. As the weather continues to get colder, please make sure that you are sending your child with labeled coats, hats and mittens for our outdoor times.

An adorable display of what our children are thankful for welcomes everyone to our preschool. Our children are thankful for a variety of things: mommies, daddies, grandmas and grandpas, teachers, mommy's cooking, and much, much more. Be sure to check it out. We are developing an "attitude of gratitude" even with our youngest children.

Our Scholastic Book fair was a great success thanks to your support. The money raised will go directly back into the classrooms by means of new supplies for our children.

Our children are learning new things each and every day. Whether it is shapes, colors, letters or manners, every day is filled with fun activities and excitement.

We are thankful that you have chosen us to care for your little one.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Thanksgiving Feasts, A Wonderful Tradition



Service and Sweets and Thanksgiving Feasts

Thanksgiving Feasts are an amazing time for our school family to come together under our big tent and enjoy one another's company as we kick off the holiday season. This year was a wonderful time of fun performances, cute costumes and service.

Our 4-8th grade students kicked off the week with our 2nd Annual Service and Sweets. This event helps to build leadership skills in our students and provides them an opportunity to help others in a hand-on way. The students made hundreds of sack lunches which were taken to the Place of Forsyth County to be distributed to families in need of food. The Place is a social service non-profit that serves hundreds of meals each week and sometimes must turn away people in need. Our donations will help many, but mostly our students, as they learn to care for others less fortunate.



Our 4th-8th graders also performed some musical selections for their parents and enjoyed tasty treats during their event.

Three other feast days were held for the other classes. Each of the grade levels sang catchy tunes and moved for their attentive audiences. One feast even had Tom Turkey himself show up for the happy crowd! Ms. Xylina Stamper, music teacher, prepared the students for their shows with the assistance of all of our teachers and staff who worked to make the feast extra special. Beautiful handcrafted place-mats and centerpieces adorned the tables and made for great take home memories, too.

After each of the performances tables covered with delicious food greeted the hungry crowds. The food included traditional fare as well as a vast variety of treats provided by each of the families.

We hope that you enjoyed this year's feasts and that your actual Thanksgiving is filled with special moments, too.

Fourth Graders Learn About Native American Tribes

Recently, the fourth graders learn about Native Americans in the United States and Canada. As the culminating assessment for the unit, students were challenged to create a Native American house out of resources they could find outside or around their homes, to research and share three new interesting facts they had not learned about their tribe, and to dress an outlined person form in clothing similar to their assigned Native American tribe.

The students used the outdoor classroom to find numerous artifacts, and they used technology and library books to conduct research. The 4th grade Suns have some Native American homes displayed at the front of their classroom. Included here are some examples of the 4th grade Meteors hard at work.



FalCan Food Drive 2013

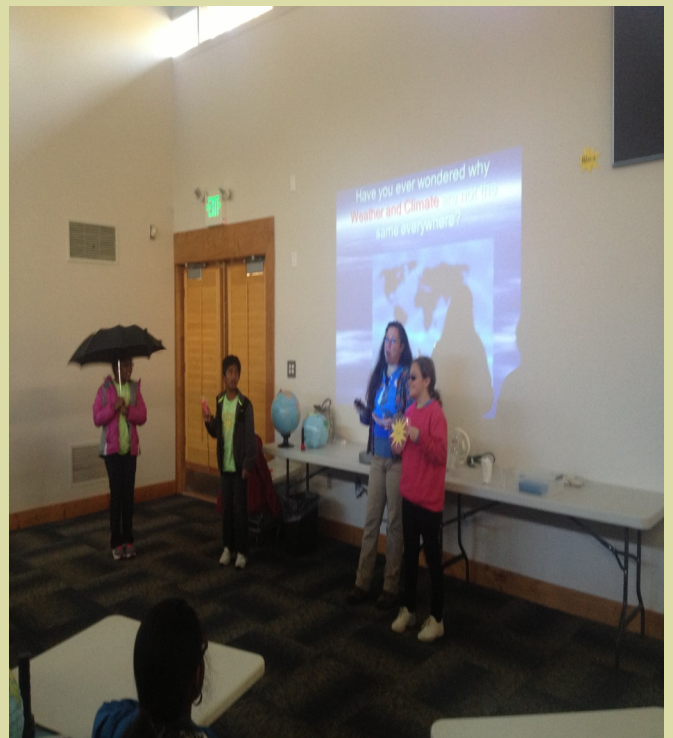
This just in from the Atlanta Falcons website, “The Atlanta Falcons, Publix Supermarkets, UnitedHealthcare and the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB) hosted the annual FalCan Food Drive School Challenge October 1 through November 8, 2013. 92 schools signed up to participate in the FalCan Food Drive School Challenge and collected 125,116 pounds of canned goods and/or non-perishable items. The total amount collected in 2013 doubled last year’s numbers going up an additional 64,452 pounds to establish a new record.”

McGinnis Woods was the 40th largest contributor to the campaign. Our school collected 1,015 pounds of food and will receive an autographed FalCan Food Drive poster. More importantly, we know that we have positively impacted the lives of people in need by sharing some of our plenty.

Thanks for your participation as we help our students learn to care for others.

Field Trip Feature: Elachee Nature Center

Our 4th graders went to Elachee Nature Center this month and learned about weather patterns and the many tools used to interpret and predict the weather. They spent a portion of the chilly visit in a classroom and the rest of the visit touring the teaching museum and out on the trails.



Teacher Grants

I recently received an email from one of our staff members and wanted to pass it on to you all so that you know how much of an impact the PA, and specifically the Teacher Grants, has on our day to day instruction.

"I wanted to let you know what a blessing having technology at arms length has been for our classroom. This week, I was able to implement a currency conversion project in math, where almost every student was on a tablet or laptop non-stop looking up and comparing currency around the world. The students were able to divide, multiply, add, and subtract decimals using these comparisons. I would not have been able to make the instruction so individualized without the technology. In Science, students were able to individually research a specific cloud and write narratives without time constraints or a lack of enrichment. In Social Studies, students were able to work in groups the whole week on typing up information for a project without any reshuffling or rescheduling. In LA, I was able to put students on tables to play vocabulary games on Pearson, allow them to do the weekly test online if it met their learning needs, and view and work on assignments online. I really feel like the sky is the limit, and the kids are so excited about using these tools!"

Mrs. Ruth Adams, 4th Grade Teacher

