

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



October 2012, Volume 4, Issue 2



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

10/20	Fall Festival 3:00-6:00PM
10/22	Red Ribbon Week Begins
10/28	Tanner Family Portraits 10:00-4:00 PM
10/29	Falcan Food Due
11/5	Scholastic Book Fair Begins
11/6	Student Council Election
11/11	Outdoor Explorers 1 -3 PM
11/12	National Young Read- ers Week

## 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

October is ushering in the fall with many opportunities for learning and fun. Our students are engaged with interesting activities in all curriculum areas and especially with their Project Showcase Projects. These projects will be presented to their classmates and then placed on display throughout the school hallways. The students always research such vast array of interesting topics. Be sure to stop by and see the wonderful assortment of top caliber work our students have prepared!

Wildcat Fall Sports have come to a close and we are beginning tryouts for the Girls and Boys Basketball Teams. We are also offering a number of new Discovery Clubs for our next six week session of clubs. Students of all ages will enjoy the many excellent offerings. Don't miss the chance for your student to learn something new.

Thanks to all who have supported our school through contributions to our Fall Festival Raffle Baskets, Cakewalk Items, and Otis Spunkmayer sales. It takes a lot of teamwork and participation to provide for the many excellent activities and programs that we provide at McGinnis Woods. We also want to thank you for helping with our big Falcan Food Drive. This is a great opportunity to teach our students to share some of our plenty with those in need. Who knows, we may even win some tickets to a game or a visit from one of the Falcons players!

We are looking forward to seeing you this Saturday at our annual Fall Festival. This is always a highlight of the season, so you will not want to miss the great food, fun and festivities! The gates open at 3:00 and there will be pony rides, obstacles courses, tasty fair food, the ever popular, Spider Jump, a not so scary Haunted House, a cake walk and crafts galore.

Happy Fall!

Ms. Mary



# Wildcat Chat

## Wildcat Teams Finish Well for the Fall Season!!

The fall sports season is now over and, the Wildcats had three good runs to end their seasons. Congratulations to all of the students who participated on our Fall teams. Their diligent efforts really paid off!

### Soccer Report:

The Wildcat Soccer Team finished their season with a 5-2-1 record. They made the play-offs for the second straight year. Their play-off luck ended with a heartbreaking loss of 3-1 against Brandon Hall. They ended their season tied for third place overall.

The team was not without heroes. Strong performances were put in by Jason Son, Cole Beckman and Peyton Presley. Our two 8th Grade girls, Courtney Stuart and Katherine Gall, also played important roles.

### Volleyball Report:

The Girls Volleyball Team finished their season with the best win-loss record in three years. At 2-5, it wasn't a winning mark, but it is progress and points to a better future for next year's team.

The team was led by the great play by Kasey Baker, Gabby Scott, and Maddie Moore. Surprise performances were also put in by Medhana Kadiyala and Alex Beckman.

### Cross Country Report:

The Wildcat Cross Country Team finished strong with personal record performances in the MAAC Cross Country Championships. The hard work paid off at the right time for the small and young Wildcat team.

Courtney Stuart set a school record of 15:09 the week before the meet, so expectations were high. She placed 12th overall in the Championship race, her highest placing ever. 5th Grader Vivian Longo placed 3rd in her race with a personal record 16:48 for the B-Team out of 47 runners. Emma Tepper was right in there, also placing 18<sup>th</sup> overall.

The boys also had "PR" days. Liam Stuart and Max Howard, both new to Cross Country, placed high in the Boys B-Team race.

## Basketball starts with Try-outs October 22!!

If you don't have your Basketball forms turned in yet, get them in soon. The teams start October 22 with try-outs for A and B teams for boys and girls. We will have the Basketball Season Preview in the next edition of the Newsletter.

## Art Show on November 7th

Our fabulous, annual, gallery-style ART SHOW will be held on November 7th from 4:30 - 7:00 in the cafeteria. Come and feast your eyes on all of the gorgeous art work our students in preK-8th grade have created! Snacks and refreshments will be served and classical music will fill the air. You will not want to miss this show, so please remember to RSVP so that we have your student's work framed and on display. Each framed original may be purchased for \$33.00. The proceeds of the evening will benefit the McGinnis Woods Art Program.





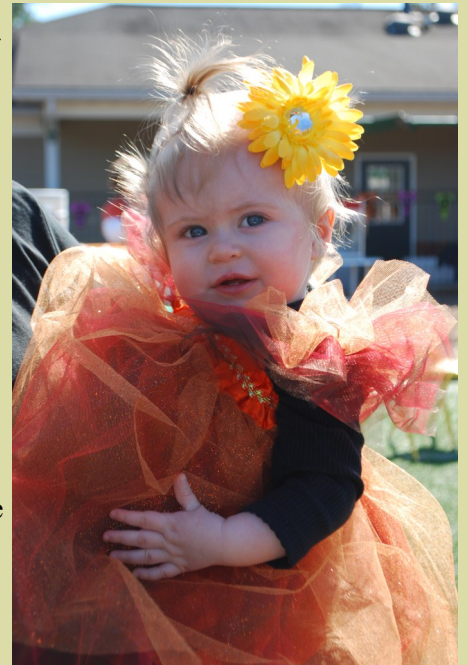


## International Night

The annual McGinnis Woods International Night was held on Thursday, September 27, 2012, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Classrooms were transformed into several different countries including India, Mexico, Italy, Australia, France, China, Greece and the Philippines. Students decorated the rooms with interesting artifacts including clothing, toys, books and student made informational posters. Parents contributed all kinds of interesting, authentic, delectable dishes representing the different countries. Students were given passports as they checked in and were encouraged to collect stamps from all of the countries they visited. They were also able to enjoy special activities in the classrooms, from painting "Mona Lisa" in Italy to experiencing henna tattoos in India. This event is always a "crowd pleaser" due to the fine food, captivating information, and unique projects students experience while "wandering the world" at McGinnis Woods.

## Fall Festival

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 20 from 3-6 for our Annual Fall Festival. It will include festive fair food, fun crafts, pony rides, a haunted house, a cake walk, large inflatable slides, a costume party and the ever popular spider jump! We will have fabulous raffle baskets to bid on and fall photos taken by our Jr. Beta Team members to benefit CURE Childhood Cancer. Our chorus students will perform some spooky favorites they have prepared for our listening pleasure. It is sure to be a great time for all! Tickets will be available at the gate for \$10 per person, so be sure to join us for the fun!



## Spooky Science Sign Ups

Spooky Science classes will be held on October 29th and 30th afterschool for Pre-k through 4th grade students. These Halloween themed labs will be led by Mad Scientists Ms. Wendy and Ms. Sam. Students will make "Dancing Ghosts," "Frankenworms," "Flarp," and "Magic Cups". Dry ice experiments will be performed, and everyone will enjoy a spooky snack. Don't miss the ghostly fun. Sign up today!



## *Featured Grade Level: Pre-K*



Ms. Stacey teaches in PreK4-A. She is originally from Dayton, Ohio. She graduated from Ohio University with a B.S. in Communications and a minor in Journalism. She has been teaching at McGinnis Woods for the past three and a half years. She adores Pre-K. Ms. Stacey also enjoys coaching cheerleading and loves being involved in the schools functions. She loves to spend time with her family, husband Kamran, son Ari (13), daughter Elanna (9) and their dog Oreo!

Ms. Hiral also teaches in PreK-4A. She is originally from California, but she moved to Georgia four years ago. She attended California State University Fullerton where she earned a B. S. in Education. Ms. Hiral has been at McGinnis Woods for the past two and a half years. She is in the process of receiving her Georgia Certification. She has been working with children for the past seven years. She and her husband have been married for four years and are expecting a baby boy in November!

Ms. Robyn is part of the PreK4-B teaching team. She is originally from Savannah, GA and has been in Atlanta since 1985. Ms. Robyn has a degree in Early Childhood Education from Ashworth College and is currently enrolled at Grand Canyon University to further her education in Elementary Studies. She has taught Pre-K for many years. This is Ms. Robyn's fifth year at McGinnis Woods. Her hobbies include reading, bowling, and sports "Go Falcons". She enjoys spending time with her husband Curtis and their children Amber, who attends GA Southern University, and Zeffery, who attends GA Tech.

Ms. Valorie also teaches in PreK4-B. She and her husband reside in Woodstock, and have three children: Amy, a member of the MW staff, Chris, who is a freshman at Kennesaw University, and Zachary a freshman in high school. Ms. Valorie received her CDA in 2011. She has been with McGinnis Woods for 4 years. Valorie loves to spend time with Ryan her husband and family going on different vacations. In her spare time, you will find her outside playing with her three Chihuahuas or reading a good book.

Ms. Lisa teaches in PreK-5. She is originally from Port Charlotte, Florida and attended Florida State University, earning a degree in International Affairs. Ms. Lisa has been with McGinnis Woods since May of 1999. This is her ninth year teaching in the elementary school. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, and tennis. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Chris, and daughters: Madison (9) and Emerson (7).

Mr. Tyler is a member of the PreK-5 Team. He is an Alpharetta native. He attended Georgia College and State University and received a degree in Community Health and Human Services. Mr. Tyler has been with McGinnis Woods as a pre-school teacher, assistant teacher, and summer camp counselor for six years. He is also an instructor at Creighton MMA and at McGinnis Woods for the Judo/ Jiu-Jitsu club. Mr. T enjoys road trips, reading interesting books, learning about the universe, and playing with cool people in the outdoors.





## Field Trip Highlights: Lake Lanier

The 4th graders went on a field trip to Lake Lanier on September 27, 2012. Prior to the trip, they studied Ecosystems in their science curriculum. When the group arrived at the lake, they boarded a boat named *The Chota Princess II* and went out to explore the lake. The students then learned about Sidney Lanier, whom the lake was named for, the Chattahoochee water shed, the history of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the man-made body of water. Students learned that the lake's water level is down about 10 feet this year, that the #1 water pollutant in Georgia is actually dirt, and that we are currently experiencing a moderate drought in Georgia. Students then learned that an effective way to cut down on water pollution is to plant native plants along the edge of the lake to cut down on erosion. Students also tested the murky water to determine PH levels, discussed plankton and observed some under a microscope, and so much more. The students asked wonderful questions of the group leaders and shared some insights into their own experiences and prior knowledge about the lake. The trip only lasted about 2 hours, but the 4<sup>th</sup> graders had a great time and formed memories that will last a lifetime!

## Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

October is filled with fun in the Preschool. Our children from the smallest member to the oldest are having a great time preparing for our annual Halloween parties and all of the special times they hold! We had a wonderful time in our pumpkin patch as the children decorated, searched for, and took photos with their wonderful fall creations! Children are also learning about Autumn, Apples, Pumpkins, Nocturnal Animals, Life on the Farm, and Halloween.

We are hosting some very special guests this month. This past Wednesday, Wendy Bennett, a local story teller will bring to life the story of The Alphabet Soup. Our little ones are in for a real treat as she enriches our language, listening, and performance skills.

Our 3 and 4 year olds will take part in a Monster Workshop led by a guest speaker. This will be a fun time for the children to hear friendly literature about monsters, dress up and act like silly monsters and then make their own clay creation monsters to cap off the visit. They will be able to bring home their monster creations to spark conversation and further language development as they share about the event with you.

All of our students and little ones are working together helping us prepare masterpieces to be sent to our troops near Thanksgiving to thank them for their service and sacrifice through *The Bert Shows Big Thanks You with Q100*. It is our hope that these creations will brighten someone's day and let them know that they are not forgotten here in the states.

You will not want to miss our Halloween Parade and Parties on October 31 at 3:30. These are festive traditions that everyone enjoys. The parade will kick off the fun on the back playground area followed by classroom surprises! We hope to see you then!





## Student Council: Election Time!

Student Council Elections are right around the corner! Interested students in fifth through eighth grades will be eligible to run for Student Council President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. We really encourage positive campaigning and want the students to feel proud of their effort. The time-line below outlines the important dates to remember!

Oct 19<sup>th</sup>: Applications go home

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>: Applications Due Back to Ms. Jenn

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Oct 29<sup>th</sup>: Students will prepare, meet with Ms. Jenn and tape their commercials.

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Nov 5<sup>th</sup>: Students will campaign, answer questions on morning announcements, and view commercials

Nov 6<sup>th</sup>: Election Day

As a reminder, parents must meet with Ms. Jenn prior to Oct 29<sup>th</sup> in order for their child to run. Good luck to all!

This year the students at McGinnis Woods will not only vote for their school officers, but also for the President of the United States in a mock election sponsored by Ms. Jenn and Ms. Nicole, Social Studies teacher. This opportunity for our students serves as a wonderful illustration of our democracy and the responsibilities of its citizens!

## Discovery Clubs

It is Discovery Club time! We are beginning to sign up for new 6 week sessions that will include some old favorites and introduce some new clubs, too! Robotics, Cooking, Cheerleading, Drama, and JiuJitsu are some of the most popular clubs which will be returning during this new session. We are also offering some new and exciting clubs including Snakes and Bug Safari, Chess, and Football to name a few. We are very excited to be offering an Etiquette Class called *Young Elite* which will be taught by an outside company. This will be a great opportunity for students to learn how to use their manners and always put their best foot forward! Be sure to sign up for Discovery Clubs as soon as possible. All forms will be due on October 29.



## Special Guest: Drummers with African Style



African style drummers came to visit McGinnis Woods on Wednesday, October 17, and they literally came in with a “bang!” They were excellent performers who studied in Guinea with an African drummer, Mamady Keita. They taught our students a West African welcome song with hand motions, and then played their drums to accompany the students’ singing. They gave the history of their drums which were invented in the 12th or 13th century and called djembes. They also told about how they were either made from cow or goat skins and wood. They taught another West African song and its meaning and had the students tap out the sound on their legs and clap their hands. Towards the end of the presentation, each student was given a *Boomwacker*, a plastic tube of varying lengths and pitches. They divided the audience into groups, and had them play different rhythms while they played their drums. Everyone had an incredible time and we hope they can visit us again!



## How does your garden grow?

The McGinnis Woods’ planting beds are full of fall vegetables now! The garden crew of Outdoor Explorers planted a variety of vegetables in September, and the plants are really growing. The broccoli and cauliflower are the biggest plants so far, but the lettuce and radishes are the most plentiful! Students will be able to eat the lettuce on the salad bar soon, and we are still enjoying tomatoes that were planted in the spring, too. Our garden certainly has been a hands-on learning science project as well as a community team builder! Be sure to watch out for our next garden event in November when we will prepare the beds for winter and plant bulbs, cabbages and pansies.





# News from our Parent Association

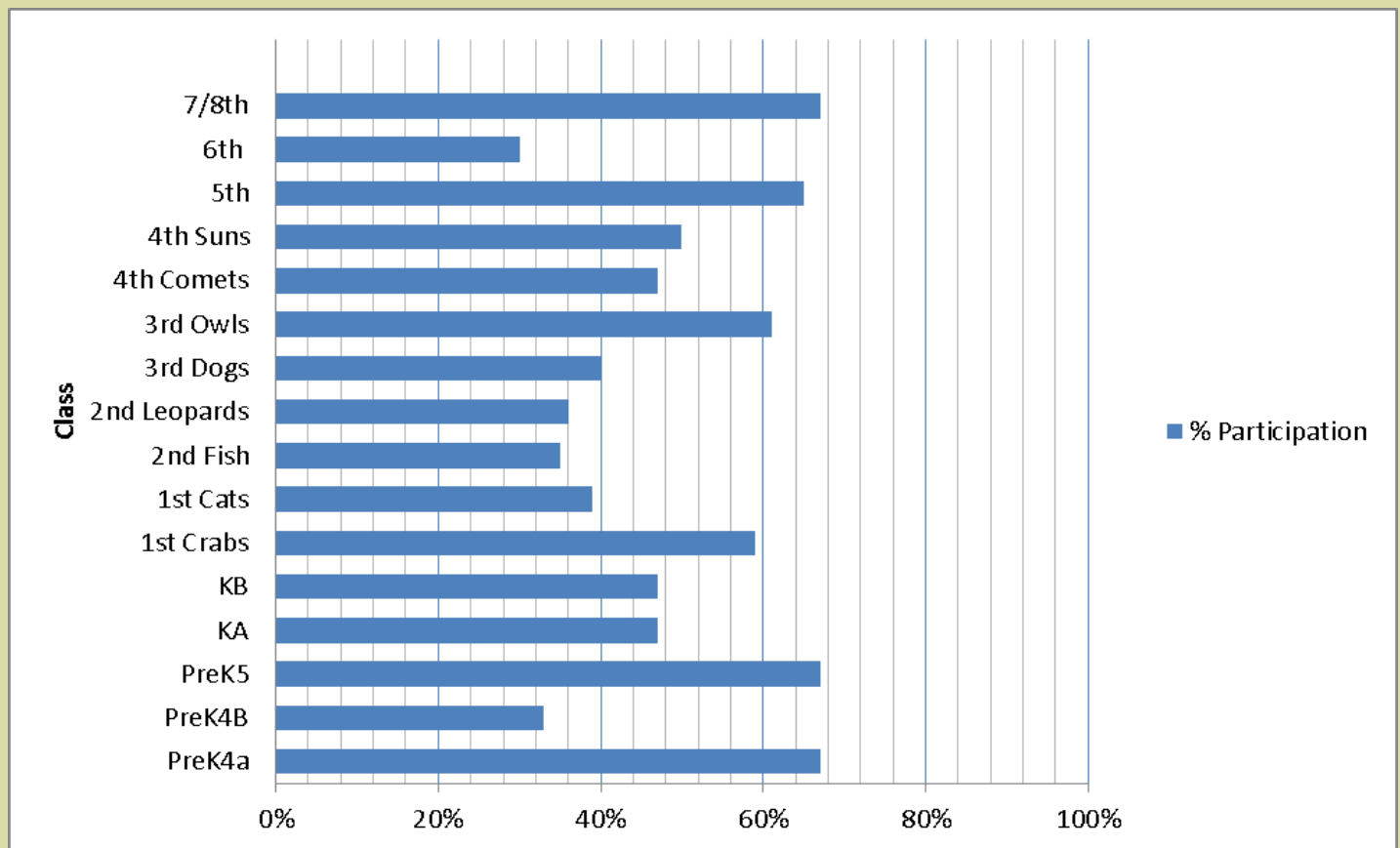
Each year the PA Board, in conjunction with school administration, seek to impact each student at every grade level through new programs, events, fundraising, and charitable works. Our Parent Association is made up of every parent with a child at the school, and we seek to involve all parents in our drive to make McGinnis Woods a great experience for all. Only through significant parental support can these initiatives take place and thrive.

Our Fall Festival Basket Raffle, in the past, has allowed us to provide grants to our teachers so that they may purchase “extras” for the classroom. At a time where many schools have to let go of “extras” due to budget cuts, the PA felt this was a great program to continue. Parental support of this program is crucial to its success; without the parents contributing to the baskets, the Basket Raffle would not exist.

This year, we fell short of our 100% participation goal, however through the generosity of those who gave, as well as some parents who went above and beyond what was asked for, we have been able to put together some great baskets. Imagine what we could have done with 100% participation of our membership!

Presale flyers have come home, and the baskets will be on display soon. Take advantage of presales...5 free tickets for every 20 purchased! You do not need to be present at the Fall Festival to win the baskets. Please join us October 20th from 3-6 to see who wins!

Below is a chart indicating our class levels of participation.



Tanner Photography is coming to our school October 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> to take portraits. This is a great opportunity to get your family portrait done for Holiday cards or just for that “moment in time” memory. Your sitting fee is \$20 and includes an 11X14 portrait for you to take home, as well as the option to purchase more of the fabulous pictures for family and friends. Time slots are still available.

Otis Spunkmeyer cookies were delivered last week, thank you to all who participated! This afternoon our top sellers will be celebrating their successes with cookie decorating and Kona Ice treats!



# McGinnis Woods Students Participate in Read for the Record

This year marks the fourth year McGinnis Woods students have participated in the annual event of *Read for the Record*. Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*®, presented in partnership with the Pearson Foundation, is an event when millions of individuals come together to celebrate literacy in an effort to jumpstart a child's future.

On October 4, 2012, students in PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grades read *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad* by David Soman and Jacky Davis, in support of Jumpstart's mission. Students were also encouraged to read the book again at home with their parents.

McGinnis Woods is an avid supporter of literacy education. We are proud of our students and teachers for their dedication to reading!

For more information about Jumpstart and *Read for the Record* please visit: <http://www.jstart.org/campaigns/read-record>.



## 3rd and 6th Grade Work Together in Science

One of the many things that make McGinnis Woods so unique is the hands on learning opportunities we provide for our students. Recently the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students had a fantastic time working together while mining for chocolate chips. Both classes have been learning about rocks and minerals as part of their science curriculum standards. The students worked in small groups comprised of both grade levels to accomplish an interesting task. They mined for chocolate chips, purchased materials; traded in their mined chocolate chips for play money and then calculated their cost vs. profit results. The students had an amazing time problem solving, strategizing, and working through the intricate details of the activity and in the end the students wanted to know when they would be able to work together again!



## Wildcats Go Pumpkins in Afterschool!

Fall has definitely arrived in Afterschool! The children have been celebrating their word of the month *Individualism* while creating their own superhero art projects, Zebra prints and pumpkin paintings.

Thank you for participating in our Pumpkin Patch Photo fun; we had a great time celebrating the season!

We want to welcome our new 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade After School teacher, Ms. Kayla. She is doing a great job getting to know our students and their families. Be sure to introduce yourself to her if you have not done so already.

