

McGinnis Woods Buzz



October 2014 Volume 9, Issue 2



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz . . .

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DATES TO REMEMBER

10-27- 10-31	Red Ribbon Week
10/31	Halloween Parties
11/04	1st—8th Final Project Showcase Due
11/03	Staff Development Day Afterschool Only
11/18	4th—8th Service and Sweets at 1:30 pm
11/19	2nd-3rd Thanksgiving Feast from 12-1:30 pm
11/20	K- 1st Thanksgiving Feast from 12:00-1:30
11/21	PK Thanksgiving Feast from 11:30-1:00
11/24- 11/28	Thanksgiving Break- Afterschool Only
11/27, 11/28	Happy Thanksgiving- 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 life-
long love of learning.*

A Message From Ms. Mary



Fall is officially here and the students are enjoying this brisk new season. We wrapped up our first grading period and sent report cards home after a week of parent/teacher conferences. Thanks to all of the parents who took the time to attend the conferences and deepen our partnership between home and school. Each student is making great progress in many areas and we are so proud of their efforts each day.

We had an amazing turnout at International Night and really enjoyed hosting more than 450 people as we learned about the featured countries and their rich history. Thanks so much to the dozens of parents who volunteered their time and talents to help make the night a great success!

Our Volleyball, Cross Country and Soccer athletes finished their seasons strong and showed much improvement and sportsmanship. Special congratulations to our Soccer Team for their strong finish as Runners Up in the MAAC D3.

Project Showcase information has been sent home and we are looking forward to filling our hallways with information boards based on the students' areas of interests, talents and newfound expertise. We will be sure to highlight some of the boards in our next McGinnis Woods Buzz so that you can see the mindboggling range of interests and abilities which the students will display.

Please join us this Saturday from 3-6 for the 15th Annual Fall Festival. The festival is a special time for all as we gather to welcome the season with activities, friends, songs, and fun. The festival will fill the turf, school playgrounds, and wing of the elementary school where a haunted house will entertain only the bravest attendees!

See you at the Festival!

Parent Association Update



Your PA Board has been busy since we last caught you up! We've worked hard to build community, raise funds and make McGinnis the incredible place it is for all of our children...

Charleston Wrap is a wrap! Our Fall Fundraiser was a great kick off to the year. The products were great and the ability to shop online and via an order form really impacted sales. We are waiting for our final earnings from the company, but we want to thank all the families that participated. Remember, our online link works throughout the year and the school continues to earn revenue. So when you are looking for a unique gift or new paper to wrap it, shop online at Charleston Wrap!

Our Denim Day was a great opportunity for our students and staff to demonstrate their care for the community and the world outside McGinnis Woods. September was Childhood Cancer Awareness month, so we chose to support CURE for Childhood Cancer. We raised \$806.00 with students, teachers and staff in both the pre-school and elementary school donating \$5 to wear their favorite pair of denim jeans. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

October brought us the opportunity to mark Family Photos off of our "to do" lists! Tanner Photography partnered with McGinnis Woods to offer a portrait seating at school for \$20 and a free 16x20 portrait to each family that participated. The best part of this fundraiser is that 100% of the money comes right back to the school. This year we had 48 families register and raised \$960.

We know that everyone is looking forward to the Fall Festival! Our baskets this year are amazing and we are SO grateful to all our wonderful families for making this fundraiser possible! Be sure to purchase your raffle tickets—these prizes are too good to pass up! We'll be sure to share the outcome of the event post raffle! Good luck!

We look forward to jumping into November with you! We've have many great events on the horizon. We are actively seeking a leader to join our ranks and assist with the planning and execution of the Boosterthon Fun Run scheduled to happen this February! This is a great community building event that teaches character traits while raising money for our school. If you are interested, drop us a note—stop us in the hall—give us a call! We'd love another set of hands to help us pull this event off!

Have ideas or questions?! Please do not forget to drop into one of the PA coffees. We just had one last week and it is a great time to visit with families, talk about school events and perk-up for the day with a cup of coffee! We love talking to you all and hope you'll join us for the next one!



Happy Fall,

Your PA Board

Wildcat Chat

Our 2014 fall sports season for our Wildcats proved to be competitive and successful. We participated in three sports this fall: cross country, volleyball, and soccer.

Our cross country team competed at Chastain Park, Perimeter School, St. Francis, Whitefield Academy and Wesleyan. We only have one 8th grader to say goodbye to this year, Max Howard. I am sure Max will participate on his high school cross country team next year. Good Luck Max! You had a great season! A huge thanks go out to Sonia Walker who helped all our runners improve their times this year.

Our soccer team finished 2nd in our division this year and made it to the playoffs. We won our first game against Brandon Hall, but fell short in the finals losing to Faith Lutheran. We still came home with a runners up trophy and we were very proud of all our soccer players. Thanks go out to Heather Bailey and Nancy Delk for coaching our team. We appreciate all your time and effort coaching our wildcats. We will miss our 8th graders next year, Andrew, Mihir, Jacob, and Ethan.

Our volleyball team this year improved by leaps and bounds from last year thanks to our dedicated coaches Sam Beckman and Jenn Evangelista. Our girls worked hard all season winning their share of games including a win over Atlanta Girls' School. Even when we didn't pull off a win, we didn't make it easy for our opponents. We do not have any 8th graders on our roster this year, so we plan on being even more competitive next year.

We are looking forward to our upcoming basketball season this year where we will host our first basketball game, November 20th in our new gym!

GO WILDCATS!!!

Coach C



Preschool Corner

Every day is a special day in our Preschool. The bright and cheerful children make us marvel at what they are learning! This month we would like to feature our Junior Toddlers. The Junior Toddlers have just started walking, and range in age from 12 months to 20 months, they are a very active group and learn new things each and every day!

They are learning all about the world they live in; they learn by doing and experiencing new things around them. This includes learning through song and stories as well as in Spanish! They are like little sponges absorbing everything. Self feeding skills, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and social skills, such as how to get along with friends, are also taught each day.

Our Junior I teacher is Ms. Tajae, who joined McGinnis Woods last April. She had 3 years prior experience working with little ones and brings an enthusiasm and knowledge of developmental skills to focus on in her class. She is fun loving and has a smile that shows her love of her work and her little charges.

Our Junior II teacher is Ms. Sarah who moved here from Florida where she had taught preschool for 6 years. Ms. Sarah earned her BA degree while in Florida and moved here to be closer to her family. She takes pride in her work and enjoys teaching the toddlers many new words as the children increase their vocabulary.

Preschool Upcoming Events:

October 31st - Halloween Parade and Classroom Parties

November 3-7 - Scholastic Book Fair

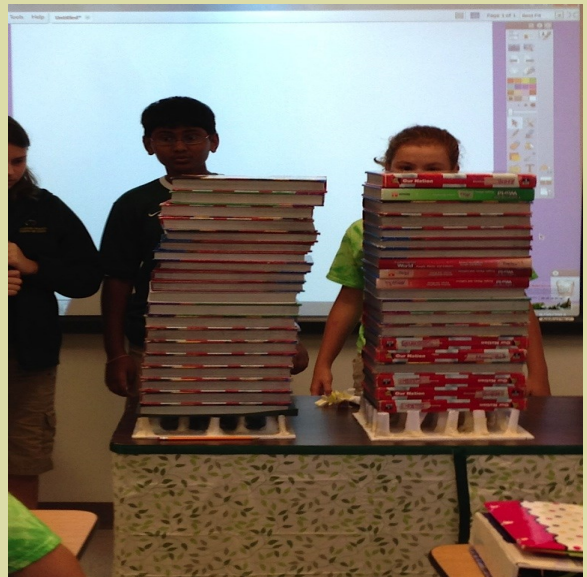
November 13 am - Special Guest /Puppet Show

If you need a reason to smile, just visit the preschool as it is sure to make you smile!



STEM in the Social Studies Classroom

Recently our 6th graders completed a STEM project as part of their social studies class. The students had been learning about the ancient history of Europe with Greece and Rome. Students were then given the opportunity to practice their engineering skills by creating prototypes of Greek columns and Roman domes. Three teams worked with the columns while the other three worked with the domes. Teams were given specific items to use on their projects. Students had to brainstorm to discover if they had any knowledge of these architectural features, as well as to determine a design for the structure before building. The columns had to be built strong enough to support the weight of one or more textbooks, while the dome (with no inside supporting structure) had to be built to hold 120 grams or more of the same incremental weight. Once students finished building they presented their design to the class and tested how well their structures were built. The columns definitely held more than one textbook before falling under their weight. The domes were equally impressive, supporting 360 to 960 grams!



First Discovery Clubs Session Comes to a Close ; New Sessions Sign ups Begin!



Our first discovery club session ended the week of October 13th. The students and teachers had such a great time with our first clubs of the year! We will once again offer Jr. Robotics, Cooking, Cheerleading, Band Club, and Drama. New clubs for this session are Cranium Homework Club, Students who love S.T.E.M. and Checkers Club.

The Cranium Club is designed to provide students with extra support and unique tutoring at the end of the day. The STEM club will be learning about bats and painting bat sculptures, doing static electricity hands-on activities and having some holiday STEM fun.

The next 6 week session will begin the week of November 4th and end the week of December 15. The session after that will begin in January 12, with registration due by December 15.



International Night Highlights!

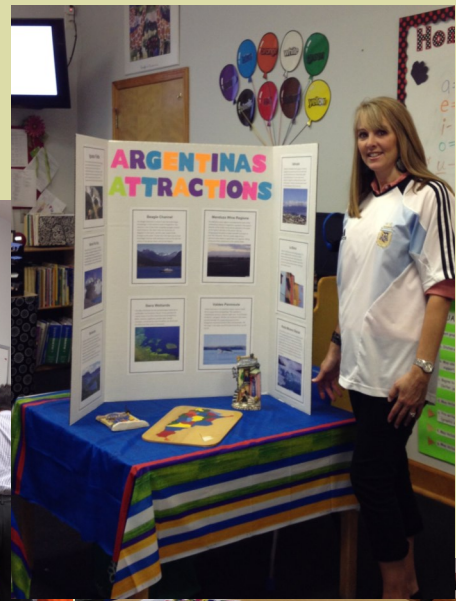


The McGinnis Woods International Night took place on Tuesday, September 30th, from 6-7:30 pm to a record crowd of close to 500 people! Students and families were treated to all kinds of delicious dishes, native music, artifacts, games and craft activities. The countries that were represented during the evening were Jamaica, Italy, India, Argentina, Russia, Greece, and China! The countries that were chosen reflect some of our global population at our school, too.

Classes had decorated their rooms to represent their chosen country which spearheaded the learning about that country. Some of the activities that took place during the evening were henna temporary tattoos in India and soccer in Argentina. Jamaica had hair beads, and Italy had pasta crafts. Coach Cynthia had PE games on the playground representing each country, so students were able to be active along with learning about the countries! Fun was had by all, and we want to thank all of the parent volunteers and teachers for making this a successful, hands-on learning event for our school families!

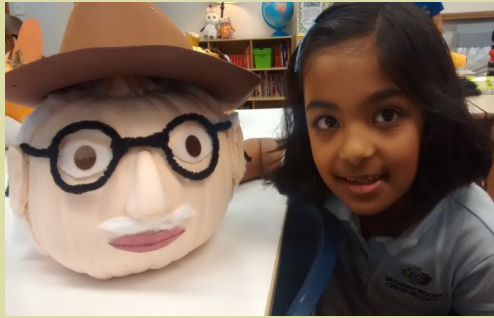
Please see the pictures on the next page and relive some of the great memories from the night!

International Night: A Wonderful Night of Learning and Community!



Character Pumpkin Book Reports

Third graders created special pumpkins for their mystery book report projects. Each student read a mystery novel, wrote a book report, and then created a pumpkin that looked like the main character of the story. These unique creations brought the stories to life!



Ms. Cece and Ms. Katie, 4th Grade Suns Teachers

The 4th Grade Suns are having an amazing year lead by their passionate teachers, Ms. CeCe and Ms. Katie. The teachers work closely with each other to ensure that their students are getting what they need and developing great academic skills and knowledge.

Ms. CeCe has been teaching at McGinnis Woods since 2006. She has a B.S. in Elementary Education with an emphasis in English, and is certified in Georgia. She is currently working on her Master's Degree at Liberty University to become certified as a Reading Specialist. She loves to read, watch movies, barbeque, and skate. Her son Elijah is 17 (senior in high school), and daughter NiaMiah is 13 (7th grader). A new addition to the family was welcomed on October 1, 2011. His name is Arty, and he is a Jack Russell Terrier.

Ms. Katie has been at McGinnis Woods since 2012. This is her eighth year teaching and she is excited to be working in the 4th grade again. She has a B.S. degree in Elementary Education with a Language Arts concentration from East Carolina University in North Carolina. She is a certified teacher in Georgia. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing the "light bulb" go off. Reading is her favorite subject to teach. Ms. Katie has been married for 5 years and recently had a baby boy, named Patrick. She has two dogs, a Boxer and a Black Labrador. In her spare time she enjoys, scrapbooking, yoga, and spending precious moments with her son and husband. Lastly, she loves sports and enjoys cheering on the Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies.



4th Graders Visit the Zoo and Lake Lanier

The fourth graders began their Science curriculum studying the habitats and adaptations of animals. They learned all about the food chain, food web, and various ecosystems. After mastering the book work, the students went to Zoo Atlanta for a field trip to confirm what they had learned in class and to see first hand, other unique adaptations and facts about the animals. Students enjoyed their time at the zoo and marveled at the great diversity of the animal kingdom.



The Fourth graders second unit in science focused on the study of the water cycle. Students learned about the different places water is found and the process that water takes getting to those places. The water cycle is amazing and students learned all about the properties of water. In class the students made a model of the water cycle with terrariums. Then they went to Aqualand Marina, where the students chartered a boat called the Chota Princess II. Once onboard they tested the water levels and completed different experiments. They also learned about the history of Lake Lanier and the watersheds in and downstream of the Atlanta Metropolitan Region.



Flat Stanley Spends the Day With an Author!

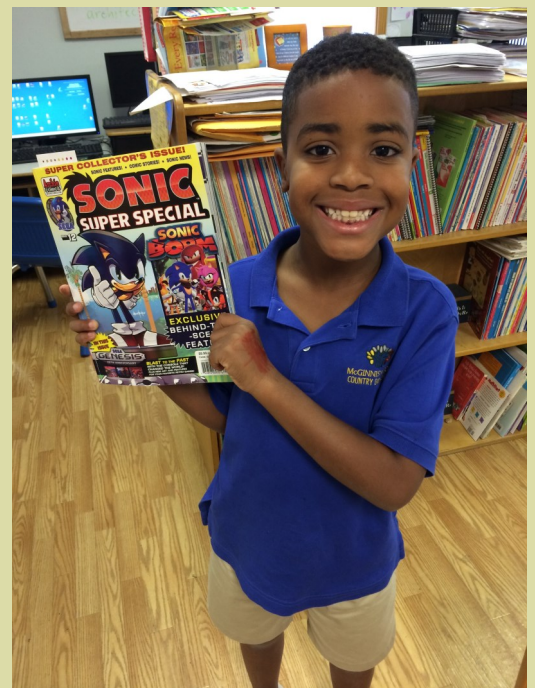
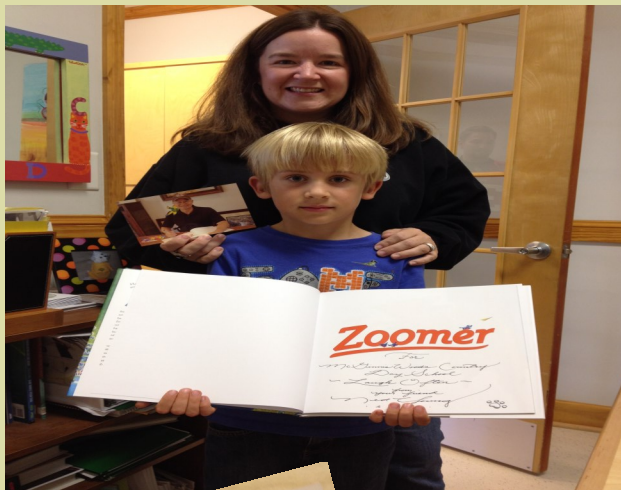
Students in our second grade classes have read the story, Flat Stanley, by Jeff Brown and are working on a fun and exciting project in their classes. In the story, Stanley is flattened by a falling bulletin board in his room. He discovers the good news about being flat is that he can be mailed in an envelope to visit his friends all over the globe and even outer space!

In conjunction with our geography and language arts lessons, we have sent Flat Stanley all over the world to visit with friends, family and even to hang out with the rich and the famous! Some of our Flat Stanleys have already returned from their adventures and have visited places from right here in Georgia, to California and as far away as Russia!

Sasha Edwards sent his Stanley to the author and illustrator of the Zoomer book series, Ned Young. Mr. Young took Stanley on a tour of his city, Brigham, Utah. Stanley also spent time in Mr. Young's art studio where he loved chasing his animals around the house. Flat Stanley returned to us with a special book for Sasha, a personal letter from Ned Young, and great pictures of his journey!

Kris Hammond sent his Stanley to the author and illustrator of the Sonic the Hedgehog comic series, Ian Flynn. Mr. Flynn returned Stanley with comic books for him and for our class to keep, as well as a letter and a picture of his hometown of Toronto in Ontario, Canada.

At press time we had just received a package from The White House in Washington D.C. What a fun and exciting way to map the world we live in. We love Stanley and his many adventures!



Ms. Jenn, School Counselor



Ms. Jenn has been the counselor at McGinnis Woods for the last eight years. Her position has many different sides to it which keeps her very happy. She teaches counseling to each child PK through eighth grade on a variety of topics including bully prevention, study skills, conflict resolution, and safety. Ms. Jenn is probably most known for her lessons on the De-Bug rules. In addition to classes, she meets with parents, runs student council, and sponsors the Jr. Beta Club.

Ms. Jenn grew up in Syracuse, New York and relocated to the Atlanta area in 1996. She has a Master's degree in school counseling from Georgia State University and is certified to teach Kindergarten through eighth grade and gifted. Prior to becoming a part of the McGinnis Woods community, she served as a school counselor and taught third grade and sixth grade math in Forsyth County.

She currently resides in the south end of Forsyth County with her husband Joe, daughter Tayler, son Drew, daughter Addison, and puppy Cooper. She likes to spend her free time with her family and running. She is an avid traveler and spends a great deal of her off time at the beach or Disney World.

Creativity

The Word of the Month for October is creativity. Creativity is defined as using your imagination to do something unique. We have so many creative students at McGinnis Woods and we are on the lookout for students showing their creative side. Ms. Jenn will be handing out Chick-fil-A awards to students who have shown exceptional creativity and who worked hard to master this character trait throughout the month.



Student Council

The month of October was filled with the student council elections. There were 19 candidates that ran for the four positions as student council officers this year. The students hung posters, made commercials, answered questions on the broadcast system and handed out stickers to the voters. We are so proud of the campaigns that each of the candidates ran and congratulate them on their hard work. After all of the votes were counted the 2014-2015 student council officers are as follows.

President: MJ Yassine

Vice President: Jay Isaacs

Secretary: Tori Kershaw

Treasurer: Tayler Evangelista

This group of students has started their term with lots of enthusiasm and great ideas. Please check out the Red Ribbon Week Section to see what they have in the works.



Patrols are on the Way



We are very excited to begin our official Safety Patrol assignments for this school year. Thank you to the 15 fourth and fifth graders who generously volunteered for the positions!

We will have our first official meeting on Monday, October 27th at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria to assign positions, discuss each student's important role, and set clear expectations. At that time, Safety Patrol officers will receive their schedules and begin a great time of service to the McGinnis Woods community!

Red Ribbon Week by Tori Kershaw

This year, Red Ribbon week is going to be held the last week of October. Our theme is Love Yourself-Be Drug Free. The Student Council is hosting a contest where kids guess which teacher is which from their baby pictures because loving ourselves starts when we are young. The winning classes will get a popcorn party. For the middle grades, students will guess individually; the winner will either get a homework pass or an order in lunch.

We will have multiple other little challenges throughout the week, like a written quiz that each class will complete together or recess exercises. Doing exercise and knowing about the dangers of drugs are signs that we are loving or caring for ourselves. Every time one of the challenges is completed, your name goes in a raffle. Plus, every day we will have some special way of dressing up that goes along with our theme.

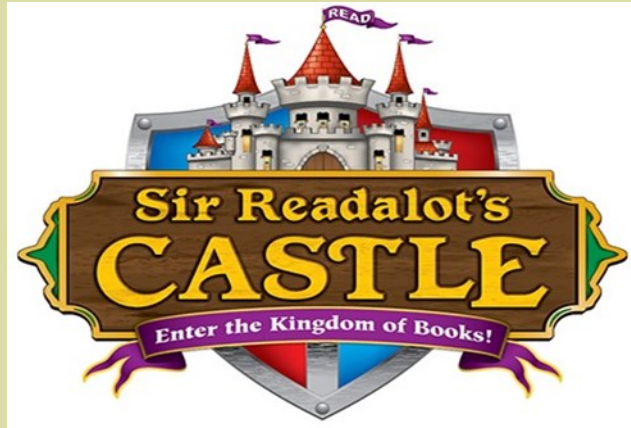
- Monday- Be as “red”-dy as you can to say no to drugs -
Wear as much red as you can (Non-uniform)
- Tuesday- Double up against drugs-Two people dress up as twins
(uniform)
 - Wednesday- Dream big and don’t do drugs-
Wear your favorite pajamas
- Thursday- I am crazy about me, I am drug free- Crazy hair and socks
(uniform)
- Friday- Hocus Pocus isn’t our focus- Wear your Halloween costumes
(Come in uniform and bring costumes to change into later)



Project Showcase is on the Way

Project Showcase is an annual school-wide learning experience which encourages students to choose a topic of interest, research and then present their findings to their peers in a visually pleasing and creative way. Project Showcase covers topics in social sciences, talents, and visual arts. In the past, students have done creative projects on gymnastics, famous historic people, their favorite bands/singers, and their favorite animals.

The whole school participates in this very creative learning experience. Pre-K and Kindergarten create a class tri-fold board, 1st-4th create an individual board and 5th-8th grades prepare 8-10 PowerPoint slides on their topic. Be on the look out for these fabulous projects to be on display coming up in November!



The excitement is in the air and its buzzing with books! Our Fall Scholastic Book Fair is just around the corner and it's "knighting" us with a selection of amazing books!

The Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read. It offers engaging and affordable books for every interest and reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Our Fall Book Fair is scheduled for November 17th-21st, from 8am to 5pm, in our school library. Purchases may be made by cash, check and credit/debit cards. Remember all purchases place books in classrooms and our school library.

Before you visit the Book Fair, be sure to download the Scholastic Book Fair app to help you find the right books for your child. For more information, visit: scholastic.com/apps/bookfairs. We'll see you and your family at the book fair!



Have a Safe and Health Halloween!

By Nurse Penny

Halloween is a time for fun when kids can enjoy a little treat, but please make sure that health doesn't get left out on this spooky day, as there are many healthy ways to add to the fun on Halloween. For ideas to help with safety and health this HALLOWEEN, please enjoy these websites and articles:

<http://www.strong4life.com/>
<http://www.switch-witch.com/legend/kids.usa.gov/articles/halloween/index.shtml>
kidshealth.org/kid/nutrition/food/excess_candy.html

I urge you to take a few minutes to check out these great suggestions. One of my favorites is a suggestion that may even become a new tradition at your house, so be sure to read "Meet the Switch Witch."

We hope that your trick or treating is safe and fun!



TOO MUCH CANDY?

Again this year we are collecting leftover Halloween candy. Please have your child choose some of their favorites to enjoy and bring the rest to school. We will be taking it to a local dentist office that joins us in reducing sugar for HEALTH!!

Drop-off of candy is scheduled for the week of November 3. Bins will be located in the lobbies of the Preschool and the Elementary School for your convenience.

Fall Festival This Saturday!

Join us on Saturday, October 25 from 3:00pm-6:00 pm for the annual Fall Festival. The festival will feature games, crafts, prizes, pony rides, a Spooky Science Lab, Haunted House, and much, much more. Our McGinnis Woods Chorus will be performing some spooky selections and the costume party will be sure to make you smile!

Admission wristbands have been sent home, but additional bands will be available at the door for \$10, if needed. The Spider Jump and festive fall pillows, including a cute turkey, will also be available for an additional \$5.

You do not want to miss this event! See you there!

