

McGinnis Woods Buzz



October 2009 Volume 1, Issue 2



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/12	No Classes Staff Development
10/14	Preschool-Forsyth County Fire Dept.
10/16:	Report Cards
10/19:	Red Ribbon Week
10/20	Preschool Halloween Parade
10/24:	Fall Festival, 3-6 pm
10/25:	Discovery Clubs Begin
10/29:	Picture Day Pre-K - 1st Grades 5th -8th Grades
10/30:	Picture Day 2nd - 4th Grades
10/30:	Student Council Elections

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

These are exciting days as fall has officially arrived! The changing leaves and cooler weather have been welcomed by all and remind us of not only the changing season, but also the pattern each school year brings. Like the trees, the children are changing right before our eyes. Some of them have made vibrant changes and are learning beyond our expectations; others are making steady progress as they tackle their curriculum and move toward academic success. We are so fortunate to be part of a school community that embraces change and works together to inspire the students to excel.

Our Parent Association has done it again! This year's Annual Fund was a great success. We ended up with 76% family participation. Our goal, as always, was 100% so if you would still like to give, please do. Our Sport Court will be installed this month! Thanks for helping our PA reach this sizeable goal for our students. We are looking forward to using the new space during PE, recess and after school.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for working to make International Night so

exceptional. The 12 featured countries were presented in such unique ways. It was exciting to see so many people wearing traditional clothing, doing crafts, activities, and sharing foods that represented their country. International Night has become a great McGinnis Woods tradition!

With the changing seasons come Parent/Teacher Conferences and Report Cards. Parent/Teacher conferences are an important opportunity for the classroom teachers and parents to work together to discuss student progress and determine goals for each student. If you haven't scheduled your conference time, be sure to do that immediately. Our first grading period ends and report cards will be sent home on Friday, October 16.

Our sports teams continue to have successful seasons. The soccer, volleyball and cross country students are very proud of their school and do a great job representing us as Wildcats when they visit other school campuses. They have won some games as well, making their efforts worthwhile!

October also brings P.A.C.K. week and Red Ribbon Week. These special weeks remind students and their families



about healthy eating choices as we try to combat childhood obesity and drug awareness. This year our Red Ribbon theme is "Our School Rocks Drug Free". Be sure to ask your students about the ways we are focusing on these two very different, yet important issues.

Our first Discovery Clubs sessions are ending this month and a new session of clubs will begin. Be on the lookout for this great opportunity to enrich your child's life.

Let's all enjoy this colorful time of year, but more importantly, let's enjoy these special students who are changing before our eyes!

Wildcat Chat

PE News:

It was a great month of PE at MWCDs! We finished a few units and are starting some new and exciting ones. The Pre-K - 3rd graders learned some new and old activities like: kicking, locomotor skills, throwing & catching, and, of course, "Queen Bee."

Lacrosse is in the air right now, with even the 3rd grade learning the fundamentals of the game. New squads will be competing for the league title soon. Look for the results here next issue.

Flickerball Champs: 4th Grade: Squad D
5th Grade: Squad B

Football Champs: 6-7-8th Grade: Squad A

Athletic News:

Girls Volleyball:

The girls have played two games so far this season. Both were close. The Wildcats came away with a **win** in the first one defeating Atlanta Girls School, 2-0. The next game went to the wire, but the Wildcat girls were outscored 2-0 by Davis Academy. This makes them 1-1 with three games and a tournament to go.

Boys & Girls Soccer:

The Soccer Team had it touch in their first game. They played a very good team and were outscored 6-0. They finished the season with a win against Chrysalis, 13-4. The team came together and performed well on the pitch.

Boys & Girls Cross Country:

The Cross Country Wildcats may be better than we thought! In the first meet this season, the team was tucked into the middle of the pack and two team members finished in the top 20. We will look for last year's record to fall soon.

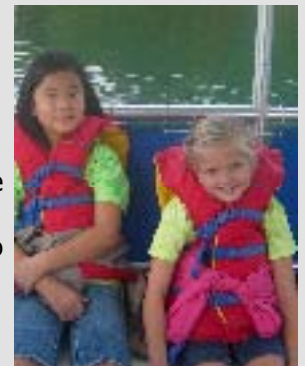
Look here next month for the latest game and meet results.

GO WILDCATS!



Field Trip of the Month: Aqualand Marina

This month the fourth grade went on a field trip to Aqualand Marina at Lake Lanier. During this field trip, the students boarded a boat in order to assess how healthy Lake Lanier is. The students measured the opacity of the water, which determines how much sunlight reaches the bottom of the lake. Additionally, they performed a pH test to measure the acidity of the lake. This is important to know because if the lake is too alkaline or acidic the fish will not be able to live. As it turns out, Lake Lanier has a perfect acidity of 7 which is the best it can have! The last experiment the students did was an oxygenation test. The fish in Lake Lanier must have between 6 and 7 parts of oxygen per every million of water in order to live. The students measurements indicated the level of oxygenation was a seven which is perfect. This was an exceptional field trip and directly relates to the students' classroom studies on habitats and life cycles. They were able to apply and reinforce their recently acquired knowledge in life science through hand-on experimentation in their own community.



PA Board Update

The PA Board would like to thank all of the families of McGinnis Woods who contributed to our Annual Fund project this year. Thanks to your generosity and the generosity of Laura and Derek Robinson, the new multi-purpose sport court will be installed in the coming weeks. Once installation is complete, there will be a celebration with an evening of casual sports games and a picnic on the turf. Stay tuned for more information.

On Friday, October 2, students participated in the Lee National Denim Day. Lee Denim Day raises money for Breast Cancer Research. The majority of students at McGinnis Woods participated by donating \$5 in exchange for wearing jeans with their uniform shirt. A total of \$1,420 was raised to support this important research. Thank you all so much for making this event a huge success!

Are you ready for the holidays? If not, Sally Foster has many gift items along with wonderful papers to wrap up all your gifts. Don't forget to take a look at the selections. The easiest way to let your friends and family know about the available items is to register online and send out an email. Go to www.sallyfoster.com and click on "seller's section" at the top left of the screen and follow the directions to register your child. The school code is 641132. All orders are due on October 9th.

Each year, McGinnis Woods hosts a wonderful Fall Festival, and we are sure this year will be no exception. The basket raffle is always enjoyed and this year, the themes of the baskets are: Fantasyland, Can We Build It, Disney Mania, Crafty You, Outdoor Adventure, Games Galore, Sports Time, Shop 'Til You Drop, Ms. Frizzle's Closet, Multimedia, and Discover Nature. Room Reps will be working with each class to develop the baskets and encourage participation.

International Night

Over 200 travelers journeyed around the world during our 2nd Annual International Night! Students and their families visited the countries of Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Panama, and Sweden. During their global adventures, our travelers were treated to the sights, sounds and delicious tastes of these countries.



Whether relaxing in an Italian cafe, playing trivia in Sweden, sampling Greek baklava or savoring the matzo ball soup of Israel, the evening was a fun and educational journey for everyone. One kindergarten declared his favorite part of the evening was the "yummy juice" of Sweden. Germany bears were also a hit with over ten pounds of the German invented sweet being consumed. Thanks to all the parents and teachers who made this amazing around the world event possible!



Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

Autumn is a wonderful time of year with Halloween and the Fall Festival being an especially exciting time for our preschoolers. The change of the season and weather provide many activities to learn science concepts, math, language skills and social studies. The preschool classes are utilizing pumpkins seeds, apples, and many different gourds to practice the skills of sorting, counting, and patterning. Art time with Mr. Joe will be devoted to discovering the power of color mixing and experimenting. Some of the art experiences will involve feeling, smelling, and tasting as our young artists are usually as interested in sensory experimentation as they are in making things!

Since October is Fire Prevention month, the preschoolers will be visited by members of the Forsyth County Fire Department on October 14th. The firemen will teach our children fire safety rules, have the children practice the art of stop, drop, and roll, and reinforce the concept that fire fighters are "our friends."

A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the Second Grade Team

The second grade team is off to a great start! This year, we are proud to have two fabulous homerooms, the 2nd Grade Fish and the 2nd Grade Bears. The Fish are led by Ms. Kim and Mr. Joe Dowd. Ms. Kim is entering her eleventh year as a teacher at McGinnis Woods and has taught everything from pre-K to 6th grade. She is at home in the 2nd grade and loves this age group! Around the school, she is a part of the School Improvement Team and leads the Yearbook Team along with the School Life Team. She also works with Ms. Sam in the Teacher Mentoring Program. When she isn't at school, she loves to scrapbook, watch movies, read, and do puzzles. She has two children at McGinnis Woods. Tori is a first grade Panda and Julie Belle is in our Preschool.



Mr. Joe Dowd is entering his fourth year working with elementary students. This is his first year at McGinnis Woods. He is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Early Childhood at Oglethorpe University. He enjoys gaming, movies, and football in his downtime. He is excited about working in 2nd grade as he works to complete his teacher certification.

The Bears are led by Ms. Samantha and Ms. Jennifer. This will be Ms. Sam's fourth year at McGinnis Woods. This is her first year teaching 2nd grade. For the past three years, she taught kindergarten and last year, was voted "Teacher of the Year." Ms. Sam is on the School Improvement Team, coaches the McGinnis Woods Soccer Team and is the Co-Chair of the Curriculum Team. She also works with Ms. Kim in the Teacher Mentoring Program. Ms. Sam lives in Canton with her husband, Brian, and two children, Cole (9) and Alexandria (7), along with their two dogs, Sophie and Champ. She enjoys soccer, reading, and computer games.

Although Jennifer York is new to teaching this year, her face may be familiar to many of you. Her son, Dylan, (7), has been a part of the McGinnis Woods family since he was one. Ms. Jennifer has a Business Degree from Florida State University. She is currently pursuing a career in education and is working on her Master's Degree in Education. Ms. Jennifer lives in Cumming with her husband, Jeff, and son, Dylan. Ms. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family, walking her dogs, reading, and watching movies.

Afternoon Discovery Clubs Spotlight: Tennis



Tennis anyone??....How about tennis everyone. Tennis is one of the few sports that can be enjoyed for a lifetime, whether playing competitively in tournaments or purely for social enjoyment. This year, the after school tennis program is being held at James Creek Tennis Center which has a total of twelve courts. Fortunately, there are four indoor courts so tennis will be held every week, rain or shine.

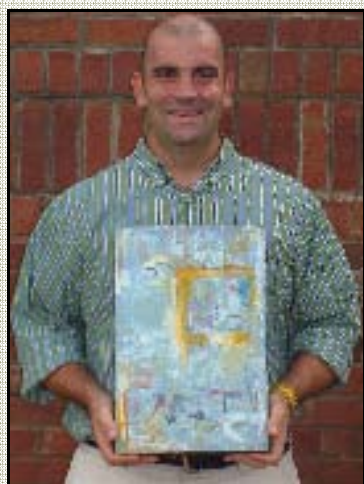
Coach Colin Smith is the Director of James Creek Tennis Center and heads the After School Tennis Discovery Club. Coach Colin played tennis at Auburn University and has worked with juniors and adults at all levels for over twenty years. He has developed numerous juniors that have achieved state, sectional and national rankings. Coach Colin is a USPTA level 1 member as well as a USTA high performance coach.

There are two After School Tennis Discovery Clubs. Both utilize the USTA sanctioned Quick Start format where children play on a court size suitable for their age and size. The K-1st group will begin to understand "tennis talk," develop eye hand coordination and learn basic strokes on a modified court appropriate for their age. Students in the 2nd - 8th grade group will learn to rally and use the proper grips. Additionally, fundamentals of foot work and swing path will be developed and reinforced. Most importantly, the goal of both groups is to lay the foundation for a lifelong love of the game by making every class fun and exciting.



"Specials" Program: Featuring Mr. Joe Parson and Art

Joe Parson teaches art classes from preschool through eighth grade and contributes to the After School Art Program. He really enjoys the friendly family atmosphere at McGinnis Woods Country School. Mr. Joe feels the school has a commitment to excellence in academics and art, and provides great opportunities for students to further their skills and knowledge. In his classes, Mr. Joe uses many examples of historical and contemporary artists, and techniques are demonstrated in a variety of media, while adhering to the National Standards in Fine Arts. Students are provided with the tools and instruction to express their creativity in both traditional and free-form methods. Currently, he is preparing students to showcase their artwork at the Annual Art Show which will be held on Thursday, November 12 from 4:00 -7:00 p.m.



Mr. Joe has been teaching art at McGinnis Woods Country Day School since 2008. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Columbus College of Art and Design and graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1993 with a Master of Fine Arts in Painting. In the past, he has had the pleasure of working as a Designer for the Columbus Museum of Art, Dale Chihuly Studios, and The Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University.

Mr. Joe and his family moved here in September of 2005 from Columbus, Ohio. He and his family love it here and really enjoy the south. He has been married for 13 years. His wife, Alix, is a photographer and works for Turner Broadcasting. They have two beautiful boys, eleven year old Noah and two and a half year old, Seth, who attends preschool here at McGinnis Woods. He enjoys making art, playing with his boys, cooking, drumming, working out, and working on his web site, www.parsonarts.com.



Join us for the

11th Annual McGinnis Woods

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 24th

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Activities include:

A Haunted House 🎃 Games 🎃 Costume Contest
Pony Rides 🎃 Face Painting 🎃 Crafts 🎃 Refreshments
Musical performance by Choir 🎃 And So Much More!

Admission \$5.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children
Children under 2 are FREE

Event Day Admission: \$10.00 per person (children under 2 are free)

