

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



August 2016 Volume 11, Issue 1



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## ***The latest buzz . . .***

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## **DATES TO REMEM-**

9-1	4th and 5th Graders KFCB Guest Speaker
9-5	McGinnis Woods Closed Labor Day
9-7	Kindergarten Field Trip Art Barn
9-9	PreK Field Trip Georgia Aquarium
9-13	2nd Grade Field Trip Tellus Science
9-14	5-8th Field Trip Carlos Museum
9-16	1st Grade Field Trip Elachee Nature Center
9-21	3rd Field Trip Consolidated Gold Mine
9-22	International Night 6:00pm -7:30 pm
9-23	4th Field Trip Aqualand Marina
9-27- 9-28	Yearbook Photos

## **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**

We have had an exciting first month of school at McGinnis Woods. The students have settled in and we have had excellent days filled with hands on learning. Our teachers have crafted many unique learning opportunities for the students in class, in our Outdoor Classroom and throughout the surrounding community.



We have also had a few unique challenges during the past few weeks. The teachers and staff at McGinnis Woods have shown tremendous resiliency as we have installed new flooring in the PreK classes and taught through the water shut off while reassuring the students and helping them maintain their academic focus. The team of teachers and staff at McGinnis Woods are the heart of our school! We are so thankful for their warm smiles, genuine concern, problem solving skills and extraordinary efforts each day.

Thanks for joining us at our Curriculum Nights. These meetings are so important and help to develop the vital partnership between home and school. This partnership benefits each of us in different ways. We are especially thankful for the many parents who have stepped up to volunteer to fill the many openings we have for volunteers ranging from serving on our Parent Association Board to helping us with class parties, heading up a committee, or beautifying our campus!

We are thrilled to be easing into September and look forward to another month of active learning packed with great events for our students and families. Be sure to check out the school calendar and save the dates for our upcoming Parents Night Out and PA fundraiser at Kendra Scott Jewelry, as well as, everyone's favorite event, International Night.

Please enjoy the upcoming long weekend in observance of Labor Day. McGinnis Woods will be closed on Monday, September 5th.

We look forward to seeing you at The Woods!

## Parent Association Update

Welcome back! We hope the school year got off to a great start for everyone! It's always sad to see summer come to an end but it's so nice to have such a wonderful school to come back to! The Parent Association is designed to help raise funds for the school, provide additional outlets for community service and to build community while supporting the school's mission: Inspiring Students with the Passion to Excel. Your PA Board is very excited about the year ahead and have some great things planned for our McGinnis Woods family! We've been very busy since we last caught you up!

Over the summer we worked hard to surprise the teachers and staff with a brand new teachers' lounge. Parent volunteers donated their time to clean, paint, shop, assemble furniture and decorate. We really wanted to be able to provide the teachers with a comfortable, private space to relax a bit when they are on break and were so excited to unveil the new space to them when they returned for Pre-Planning Week! Be sure to check out some of the before and after pictures on the PA Bulletin Board in the entrance of the elementary school.

We're kicking September off with two fundraising events! After taking a year or two off, we are excited to bring back Square One Art! Square One Art replicates our children's artwork on a variety of keepsakes. Stay tuned for info on how you can purchase mugs, stationary, phone cases, ornaments and all sorts of other fun things personalized with your children's one of a kind artwork!

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 16th from 6:00-9:00 pm and join us at the Kendra Scott store at the Avalon in Alpharetta for a Kendra Gives Back Event benefitting McGinnis Woods. 20% of all sales proceeds between the hours of 6:00-9:00 will go back to the Parent Association. They will be serving light hors d'oeuvres and champagne in the store and one lucky attendee will win a free piece of jewelry. Take advantage of Parent's Night Out at the school and join us for a fun evening!

Want to learn more about what the PA does or how to get involved? The PA is hosting a pizza party on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:30 pm to introduce ourselves, meet all of you, and discuss how we support the school and the different ways you can help. Parents and children are welcome to attend so bring the family and come have some pizza with us! Please RSVP at: <http://mcginniswoodspa.org/index.php/about/pa-pizza/>

If you cannot make the Pizza Party but are interested in getting involved or want to learn more about the PA, please drop us a line at <http://www.mcginniswoodspa.org/index.php/contact/>

We would love to hear from you! With your help, we are hoping to make 2016-2017 the best school year yet!



## Preschool Corner



The Preschool has had an exciting month welcoming new friends and getting to know new classroom routines and friends! During August the preschoolers have explored many interesting themes and had a lot of active fun.

During the first week of August, the children took Back to School pictures and brought in show and tell items that they love. One of our classes made a Magic School Bus and then each child wrote out their own name tags. During All About Me Week, each student brought in beautiful family pictures to share with their friends and hang in the classrooms. The pictures made us smile. Our My Pets Week was super fun as one of our wonderful teachers built a pretend vet office for the preschoolers to check their "pets" into. That provided the children with

lots of fun and great new words to add to growing vocabularies.

To end the month, we had our very own version of the Olympic Games and award ceremonies. We tied in learning about Rio and the real Olympics in Brazil. The children always enjoy learning about other people and places, so this was a real highlight of the month!



## Discovery Clubs About to Begin



Our first of four 6-week long Discovery Club sessions this year will start the week of September 12th and run through the week of October 14. The first Discovery Club forms have been collected and the students are enrolled and ready to begin the activities! Clubs are limited in space and many clubs fill up, so always be sure to get your forms in before the deadline to ensure a space.

This session we are offering Beginners and Advanced Co-Ed Basketball, Morning Band, Cooking, Chess, Drama and Robotics, and Pokémon Go Learn with Ms. Sammi. This is a new club and will capitalize on the Pokemon Go craze which has taken

over the US. Cheerleading will be taught by Ms. Christy this session. She has lots of experience working with cheerleaders and is excited about the chance to lead our team.

We will offer Football, Etiquette, Science Olympiad and Oratorical Club later in the year. Please let us know if there are any other clubs your child may be interested in taking because we are always looking for new ways to enhance our offerings.





## *Wildcat Chat Fall 2016*

Our Wildcat teams are practicing hard and beginning competition for this fall. Our girls' volleyball team has already played two matches. We played Eastside Christian and saw some very tough competition. Our girls lost the match, but the good news is that we will play them again on our courts September 15th! During our second match we played Killian Hill and it was a close match. We lost by two points in the third game. It was an exciting game and we played fantastic! Our girls are ready to play and we are going to see a lot of exciting volleyball matches this season. We have sixteen girls on our roster, including both a B team and an A team. Our coaches are Sam Beckman and Jenn Evangelista and they are preparing our girls for a winning season!

Our soccer team has been practicing and working hard as they prepare for their first game scheduled for Monday, August 29th. We will be playing Lyndon Academy at Stars Soccer Complex in Milton at 4:00. We have fifteen boys and girls on our roster. Our Coach, Roger Gallivan, and his assistant Coach, Alden Watson, have been teaching soccer skills and teamwork. We are a young team with some beginners and some seasoned players sprinkled in as well. We are looking forward to playing some exciting soccer games this season!

Cross Country is out running in the heat along our outdoor classroom trail. We have eight runners on our roster and are excited to be running our first cross country meet on Wednesday, September 7th at Saint Francis High School starting at 4:30. Our runners are looking good and are prepared for the challenging courses they will encounter this season.



*Go Wildcats!*

## *Middle Schoolers Enjoy Their First Social of the School Year*



The first week of school was exciting for the middle school students. After being acclimated to the new school year, the students wrapped up the week with a middle school student gathering. The Social Committee hosted an ice cream social in the McGinnis Woods Outdoor Classroom. Students had the opportunity to catch up with one another, get to know new students, and discuss plans for the school year.

Students returned to the gym to play volleyball, four square and basketball. The social was an excellent opportunity for students to continue building relationships with one another, develop leadership skills, and step away from the classroom and have fun with one another. Students also spent time with the middle school teachers and were able to get to know them outside the classroom.

Each month, the Middle School Social Committee, which is chosen by the students and changes membership each term, plans a social for all middle school students. Be sure to watch the September calendar for the upcoming socials. We love to see all of our students at these events.



## *Third Graders Visit the 911 Call Center*



For our August field trip, the 3rd graders were treated as very special VIP's at the Forsyth County 911 Call Center and District 12 Fire Station. The 3rd graders toured the call center and were able to see how a 911 call is processed in real time. They met the amazing operators and supervisors who process the important calls and asked questions about working at the call center.

The 3rd graders were also shown around the local fire department and were able to see all the equipment that is on a fire truck, they even got to go inside and test the lights! Our 3rd graders had such an amazing visit and were truly inspired by the great first responders they met.





## Parents Night Out Planned for September 16th



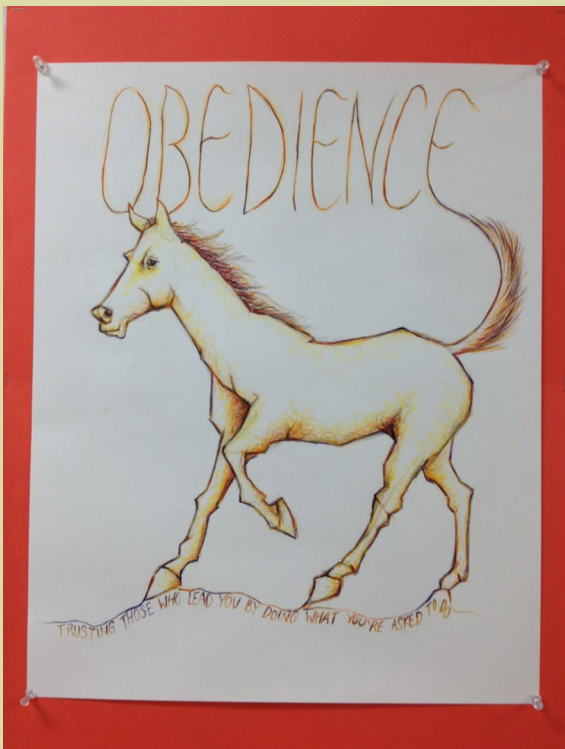
KENDRA SCOTT

On Friday, September 16th, we will have our first Parents' Night Out of the 2016-2017 school year! Children are invited to come to school at 5:45 pm, play, eat dinner, do crafts and watch a movie. We will be watching the "Angry Bird" movie. Dinner will be provided and students may wear pajamas and bring pillows, blankets and sleeping bags. Pick-up time is 9:30 pm.

This Parents Night Out was planned with the PA event at Kendra Scott at the Avalon in mind. What a great opportunity to enjoy a meal, walk around the beautiful grounds at Avalon and then shop for some beautiful jewelry to support the school! Parents who bring a sales receipt from the Kendra Scott event will earn a \$5.00 off coupon for a future Parents Night Out! This is also a great time to schedule a play date with friends! A flyer will be coming home soon with registration information, so don't miss out on the



## Our word of the Month: Obedience



The Word of the Month for August is Obedience. Obedience is defined as *trusting those who lead you by doing what you're asked to do*. Each day during the morning announcements we share a thought for the day regarding our word of the month so that students and their teachers can discuss these important character traits.

Throughout the month, we will be looking for students who are working to demonstrate the character trait of obedience. Some students who work to master this character trait will be recognized on the morning announcements and will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon to celebrate their progress.

# *What's The Name Of That Creek?*

*Written by Mr. Josh*

Many exciting things are going on with the Outdoor Classroom and the Nature Trail at our beloved McGinnis Woods! First of all, our school is in the process of being certified through Explore Nature. They are a National Organization that specializes in premier, well-rounded, outdoor education. Perhaps even more exciting, is the fact that our school has partnered up with "Keep Forsyth Beautiful". K.F.C.B. is a fantastic organization that is in charge of recording scientific data here in Forsyth County. Kevin Smith, who does a terrific job with the company's community outreach programs, is allowing us to pilot a few educational programs which are designed to have community volunteers and students take part in real data being used by scientists. For example, our second and third grade classes will be tracking and recording frogs and amphibians in the surrounding habitat: namely the creek and forest that is on our school's campus. The students' data results will be uploaded to the ACTUAL Forsyth County website (more info @ <http://www.georgiaadoptastream.com/db/amphibians.html>) where it will be used by biologists to track amphibian population migration. How cool is that?!? That is so much better than doing a worksheet or watching a video about frog populations! Our students will be creating real scientific data!

But the frog program is far from the only program we have adopted through K.F.C.B. Each grade level will be participating in a program that includes tracking and monitoring scientific data. Our fourth and fifth graders will be performing a habitat survey of our nature trail and doing chemical testing of the creek. The sixth through the eighth graders will be monitoring habitats in our outdoor classroom and running a littering and recycling program to help both the school itself and the surrounding area.

I must admit, I am saving the most exciting bit for last: Our Name The Creek Contest! Amazingly enough, the creek that runs through the school campus does not have an official name. Kevin Smith has presented us with the opportunity to come up with a name that will be adopted by Forsyth County, mapmakers and the scientific community at large. What an opportunity! We have completed phase one of the voting. Students turned in names that they created and a group of teachers reviewed them and selected the top five entries. They are: Inspiration Creek, McGinnis Creek, Wildcat Creek, Woodsy Creek and The Wildcat Waterway. Next week, our students will cast a vote on a ballot to have their say about the creek's name, so, stay tuned! Things are happening out there in the woods!





## *Student Council and Beta Club Updates*



Student Council Officers from last year have begun planning for the 2016-2017 school year. We have been working on the school store and planning for Red Ribbon Week in October. The school store is open each Friday from 8:00am-8:25am in the lunchroom.

Elections for officers will be held at the end of September for interested students in fifth through eighth grades. Please see the calendar and application for specific dates. Representatives for kindergarten through eighth grade classes will also be chosen at this time by classroom teachers.

The members of last year's Jr. Beta Club have begun meeting, brainstorming and putting plans in place for this school year. We will add new members after the first report cards are sent home and can determine students eligible for membership. Invitation letters will be sent home with all eligible students.

Along with new opportunities, we have decided to continue our work supporting Dogwood Forest Assisted Living Facility in Alpharetta through special time spent with residents sharing stories and playing BINGO. The students will also continue their work with Furkids Dog and Cat Shelter. We are looking forward to visiting the shelter and raising funds to support their efforts.



## *5th Graders Learning to Keyboard During Electives*

Each of the Middle School students at McGinnis Woods choose an elective to participate in each semester. This semester the students were able to select from either Fit Girls, an exercise and nutrition course geared to girls, Cartooning taught by our art teacher, Mr. Dan, or Singapore Math with Ms. Pam.

Each year every 5th grader takes keyboarding during the first semester. This class helps to prepare the students for the rigors of typing and note taking necessary for 21st Century Learning. Each student is given a pretest at the beginning of the semester and will be administered a post test at the end of the semester to show growth in both speed and accuracy.

The middle schoolers are enjoying their electives as they develop new skills and interests.





## *Flat Stanley*

He's back . . . and flatter than ever!

# FLAT STANLEY



Students in our second grade classes have read the story, Flat Stanley, by Jeff Brown. In the story, Stanley is flattened by a falling bulletin board in his room. He discovers good news about being flat and 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 are sending 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 past Flat Stanleys were sent to locations right here in Georgia, to California and as far away as Russia! He has spent time with Mickey and Minnie Mouse, several Presidents, Princess Kate, Paula Dean, Carrie Underwood, the Atlanta Falcons, and Mary Pope Osborne, the author of the Magic Treehouse books. What a fun and exciting way for us to map the world we live in! We are so excited to see what exciting people and places we will hear from this year! Our first Stanley is already traveling through Europe, so stay tuned!

## *Kindergarten Field Trip*



On August 16, the kindergarten classes visited the Interactive Neighborhood for Kids also known as INK. The students have been studying the different types of community helpers in Social Studies so this field trip was a wonderful way for the children to experience hands on each of the jobs that they have been learning about.

Students were able to let their imagination run wild while learning about the world around them. The students enjoyed pretending to be firemen, doctors, clerks, teachers, and dentist to name a few. The hands-on, interactive exhibits are structured in a way that lets each child touch and feel the "real world". A wonderful time was had by all.



## *Welcome Nurse Amy*



Amy Lovern, MSN, RN is our school nurse. Nurse Amy takes care of all of the medical aspects of our school. She also teaches HEALTH class to students' ages 3 years through 8th grade. This aspect of her job is very rewarding and the students enjoy learning healthy habits.

Nurse Amy received her Associates of Science in Nursing from Pensacola State College, Bachelors of Science in Nursing and Masters of Science in Public Health Nursing Administration from The University of South Alabama.

She lives in Cumming and in her free time enjoys exercising, gardening and spending time with family. She and her husband, Fred, have two sons, Odin and Jonas. Odin and Jonas both attend North Forsyth High School. She also has three dogs, which she adores. Milkshake and Pluto are Pugs and Yoda is a Chihuahua. Nurse Amy has worked in a variety of healthcare settings, from school nursing to most recently as a Hospice nurse, but believes her true calling is working with children. Be sure to welcome Nurse Amy to our school.

## *Health and Safety Tips from Nurse Amy*

Hand hygiene is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of disease. In Health class, students are learning about germs and how they are spread. Washing your hands and covering your cough or sneeze are two effective ways to prevent the spread of disease. I will continue to reinforce hand hygiene throughout the year and encourage students to practice healthy habits.

### **Forms Needed:**

All students are required to have the following forms completed and current:

GA 3231- immunization form

GA 3300- hearing, vision, nutrition and dental forms.

I will be reaching out to parents via email to request needed forms.

### **Medications:**

If your child requires medication administration during school hours, please complete the medication form at the front desk and indicate when the medication needs to be given. Medication times are 11am and 3pm. Please do not place medication in your child's backpack. All medication should be given to front office staff and administered by school personnel.

Please feel free to contact Nurse Amy with any questions at [alovern@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:alovern@mcginniswoods.org).

### **Adult Flu Vaccinations:**

Adult Flu Vaccinations will be administered by Forsyth County Health Department on Friday, September 30, 2016 at 8:45am in the clinic. Sign-up sheets will be available in the front office at either school.





## *McGinnis Woods Summer Camp Success!*

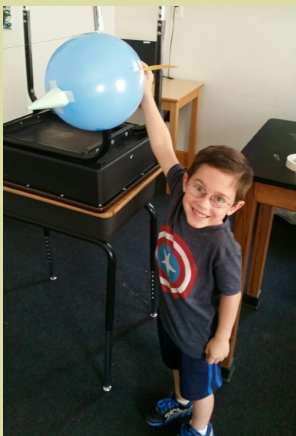
Our Sunsational Summer Camp at McGinnis Woods was great fun! We spent the summer learning about interesting themes, doing Daily Challenges, going on unique field trips, participating in STEM classes with Ms. Sammi, getting plenty of daily physical fitness, and cooling off with water park activities. Many special guests visited us and we enjoyed a number of talent shows and surprises along the way, too.

Many Specialty and Academic Camps were offered this summer to sharpen our campers' skills and expand their minds. Some of the camps included swimming, cooking, cake decorating, STEM, football, Jr. and Sr. Robotics classes, and academic boot camps throughout the grade levels. Our field trips took us to exciting and interesting places like Zoo Atlanta, Build-a-Bear, Elachee Nature Center, the Art Barn, and Dahlonega Gold Mines!

One of the highlights of the summer was when our campers spent a day in July giving back to our local heroes at nearby fire and police stations by bringing them homemade cookies and sweet posters. We were excited to show them how much they are appreciated!

Some of the guest speakers who visited us included Cricket's Petting Zoo, Michael Johnson's "Touch of Magic – Science Show", and Fun-o-Rama which makes fantastic balloon animals for our campers.

Sunsational Summer Camp at McGinnis Woods is a highlight of each year, and we were so thankful to be spending our summer days with your special campers this year!





## Pictures from Around the School





*Please Save the Date*



KENDRA SCOTT

*You're invited to a  
Kendra Gives Back Party  
A fun shopping event benefitting  
McGinnis Woods Country Day School.  
Enjoy raffles, bubbles and bites while you shop  
Friday, September 16th  
6-9 pm  
20% of sales will be donated to  
McGinnis Woods Country Day School's  
Parent Association*

KENDRA SCOTT – AVALON  
3150 AVALON BLVD I ALPHARETTA, GA 33432