

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



January 2016 Volume 10, Issue 5



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

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

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## **DATES TO REMEM-**

1/30	Open House 1:00pm -3:00pm
2/2	7th and 8th Dyslexia Day at the Capitol
2/4	Kindergarten field trip to Center for Puppetry Arts
2/5	PreK field trip to Center for Puppetry Arts
2/6	Valentines Dance Holiday Inn Roswell 6:30pm -9:00pm
2/8- 2/12	Career Week
2/11	Round 1 of GISA Spelling Bee
2/12	Student /Staff Holiday After School only
2/15	President's Day After School Only
2/17	2nd field trip to MLK Center

## **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**



What a wonderful month this has been! 2016 has started off with many special activities, unique opportunities for our students and smiles galore. Our students participated in the schoolwide Spelling Bee, amazing field trips including the Georgia State Bar, played basketball games (and won), and made videos and robots.

Please join us tomorrow for our rescheduled Open House from 1:00 pm – 3:00pm. This is a great opportunity for you to join us and learn about the classes for next year and to invite a friend who might want to check our school and the extraordinary educational opportunities that our students enjoy each day. The advantages of a McGinnis Woods education are too numerous to list: creative, dedicated teachers and staff who know each student, small class sizes, rigorous and engaging instruction, hands on learning with an emphasis on STEM, individualized instruction, numerous leadership opportunities for students, team sports, and after school Discovery Clubs are some of the opportunities that make McGinnis Woods a special place to learn and grow.

Today we wrapped up our celebration of National School Choice Week. This week the students have written thank you notes to their parents, made posters, performed Readers Theaters and plays, and worn bright yellow scarves commemorating the week. We know that there are many different school options available to you, so we are very thankful that you have chosen McGinnis Woods for your student!



## *Parent Association Update*

The McGinnis Woods PA is busy working on events to make McGinnis the best place for our children to learn and grow!

We hit the ground running in January and hosted one of our Teacher Luncheons to say thanks to the incredible staff that make this school so special. We hope your children have enjoyed helping in this endeavor. We also owe a huge thanks to our behind the scenes organizer, Dawn Beisner. Many may not know that Dawn tackles planning each of our Teacher recognition lunches and is really an unsung hero behind the scenes. She coordinates the food, the classes, the supplies and even the coveted Costco desserts. Thank you to Dawn!

This month we look forward to setting up the 3D printer that the PA was able to purchase with all of your help. What an addition to the STEM room and our children's enrichment! Once we have it all set up, we know your child will be buzzing about it...likely louder than the sound of the printing!

We recently announced information about the favorite McGinnis Woods Valentine Dance. We are hopeful that you will join us to dance the night away on Saturday, February 6th. We have a great kid friendly buffet planned, awesome teacher auction items and tons of dance floor give-a ways! The kids love to get dressed up and celebrate as a family—both with their family and their McGinnis Woods family! Don't miss this event... we promise you will regret it!

We are also working on our Spring fundraiser...and we think ALL our families will be excited. More information on this as we gain momentum!

We continue to look for family support and would love to involve more families in our fun...please think about what you might be able to give time to— Upcoming events are Teacher Appreciation Week, Spaghetti Dinner, Spring Fundraiser, and Scene on the Green! We are eager to make new friends and know that everyone could find a place on our team!



*We look forward to seeing you at the Valentines Dance!*

## *Preschool Corner*



The first month of 2016 has flown by in the Preschool. We rang in the New Year while learning all about time and clocks. The children enjoyed making clocks to show the different times of the activities they do throughout the day. They also discussed what time of day they like best.

During Medieval Times Week, the classrooms went back in time to a land filled with Kings and Queens, Dragons and Castles! The children made their own crowns and became Princes and Princess for a day! They also painted dragons. It was a magical week.

Friendship and Cooperation Week focused on learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and how he stood for peace. The children learned what being a good friend looks like and practiced being kind. They learned to cooperate through activities such as picking a friend to build a tower with, and making friendship bracelets and hand print murals. It was a week of peace and love!

We finished the month with the theme of Manners Matter and oh, how they do! The children practiced being polite to parents, friends and teachers and learned how important it is to show manners by saying special words such as "please" and "thank you", "excuse me" and "you're welcome."

We spotlighted author, Laura Numeroff, who wrote such great books as "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie". Finally, we had a visit from Lee Bryant, the Puppet Guy, and as always he was a huge hit and the children loved his show!

Please be reminded, that rising Pre-K parents are invited to the rescheduled Open House, tomorrow from 1-3. We hope to see you then!



## *Parents Night Out*



The December Parent's Night Out took place on Friday, December 11th. Everyone was wearing pajamas and brought sleeping bags and blankets. We watched "Arthur Christmas" and enjoyed holiday themed crafts and games. Dinner was hot dogs, chips, salad, fruit, and ice cream sundaes for dessert!

The next Parent's Night Out for the Preschool and Elementary School will occur on Friday, February 12th, from 5:30-10:00 pm. The extended hours are for parents to have extra time to enjoy a special Valentine's Date! Children will watch "Inside Out" and "Minions" and Valentine themed crafts and games will be on the plan for the night, too.



*Save the date for this fun night out for parents and kids!*



## *Wildcat Chat With Coach Croom*

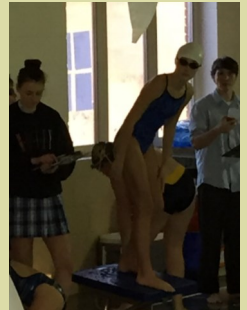


Basketball season is coming to a close. Our boys finished their basketball season with four wins and five losses. We have a team of very young basketball players and new talent. Our coach this year was Chason Smith who has been instructing our players on the fundamentals of basketball. We learned a lot and came a long way! Thank you Coach Chason!

Our girls' are coached by Coach Brittany Henderson and Coach Robyn Hogan. We had a successful regular season with five wins and 3 losses. Our girls made the A team tournament that will take place on February 2nd and February 4th at Brandon Hall. Our girls will play Heritage in the semifinals and if they beat Heritage, they will play on February 4th in the finals. Our girls will take the court at 4:10 on February 2nd,

please come out and support our wildcats! We are proud of our girls working hard and improving this season. Thank you Coach Brittany and Coach Robyn!

Our league, MAAC, (Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference) sponsors a couple of swim meets in the winter so our students can compete amongst each other. McGinnis Woods does not have a swim team, but we do have a swimmer! Emma Guy competed in a couple of swim meets to represent McGinnis Woods. She proved to be quite the swimmer, finishing in the top of the pack. Emma traveled to Ga Tech where she competed in three events: freestyle, breast stroke, and the back stroke. Each event had over 100 participants and Emma was in the top 25 in each event. She also participated at Saint Francis and placed 2nd place in each event! Way to swim Emma!



## *The 2015-2016 Yearbook is Under Construction*

The 2015-2016 McGinnis Woods Yearbook project is in full swing. Since the second quarter, Ms. Kim has met each Friday afternoon with a very productive group of students taking the Middle School Yearbook Elective. This creative team includes: Tayler, Tori, Alberta, Maggie, Madison, and Emma. They have made artistic decisions, held the art contest for the front cover, back cover and title pages, created, copied and distributed schoolwide flyers, met with teachers, taken photographs, uploaded hundreds of pictures into the book and have begun creating pages.

Each Friday during the elective the team works in the computer lab to review, edit and upload the photos for each page. They could use your help to complete this monumental task, as they are still in need of pictures. The team works to ensure that every picture is a quality shot, that each student is represented and that all of the great things that happen at McGinnis Woods are showcased in this beautiful showpiece. Please be sure to send in any photos that you would like to have considered for the yearbook to [kkershaw@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:kkershaw@mcginniswoods.org), as soon as possible. We can't wait to share this year's yearbook with you in May.



## *Middle School Social Committee*

With the beginning of the second semester, the Middle School chose new members for their social committee. Congratulations to this team! The second semester members include: Shivani, Evan, Monet, Matilde, Ashley, Tori, Molly, Mari and Sergejs.

Some of the events that they have planned for the second semester include a baking contest, a campfire, a four-square tournament and another donut breakfast. Flyers for the baking contest will be sent home before the end of the month. Students who would like to participate will bake their best item to be sampled by the students and teachers. Then students and teachers will vote to determine the best baker of the bunch. This is sure to be a tasty event!



## *Learning About Self-Control*



This month's Chick-fil-A word of the month is self-control. The students have learned that self-control is defined as, "choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do." Students have been learning the meaning and importance of self-control throughout January during morning announcements filled with great quotes and important discussion points.

Teachers are constantly on the lookout for exceptional students demonstrating their self-control throughout the day. These special students were recognized with a special Chick-fil-A coupon and their name announced on the morning announcements.



## *Student Council and Jr. Beta Clubs Spread Happiness*

We are so proud of our Student Council and Jr. Beta Club students and the many ways that they tangibly show that they care for others and work to encourage those around them.

Student Council is busy getting ready for our annual Candygrams. Candygrams are special Valentines that can be sent to friends in other classes. The student council has collected order forms for the Candygrams and are busily processing the orders so that the little treats can be distributed on Thursday, February 11th.

Student Council Officers have also been preparing for our upcoming Open House. They will represent our students and speak to prospective families about some of the highlights of their many years at McGinnis Woods. The officers have prepared short speeches and are excited about sharing their love for McGinnis Woods with others.

The Jr. Beta Club raised money through a fund raiser for the Furkids dog shelter. Students also made blankets and will be making dog biscuits to drop off to our furry friends. The Jr. Beta Club had to cancel their visit to Furkids on Friday, January 22nd, but are in the process of rescheduling the visit due to our recent inclement weather. The students are so excited to lend a helping hand.

Our 5th grade group of Jr. Beta students are working to benefit Dogwood Forest Retirement Community and plan to visit the home in February to play BINGO with the residents. They will also be bringing treats to brighten the residents' days.



## *Third Grade Teachers Make Learning Fun*



Ms. Sam has been teaching at McGinnis Woods since 2006. This is her tenth year teaching and her fifth year teaching third grade. She has a B.S. in Elementary Education from Kennesaw State University, and is a certified teacher in Georgia. She loves to read, play computer games, and Starbuck's. Her son Cole is a tenth grader and enjoys playing soccer and her daughter Alex is an eighth grader and loves playing volleyball. She has two dogs, Remy, an Airedale Terrier and Koda, a rescue pup. In her spare time she enjoys photography and being a volleyball and soccer mom.

Ms. Katie has been at McGinnis Woods since 2012. This is her ninth year teaching and she is excited to be working with 3rd 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 and science are her favorite subjects to teach. Ms. Katie is married and has a son named Patrick. She has two dogs, a Boxer and a Black Labrador. In her spare time she enjoys reading, baking, running, yoga, and spending precious moments with her son and husband.

## *Pre K Students Visit INK*

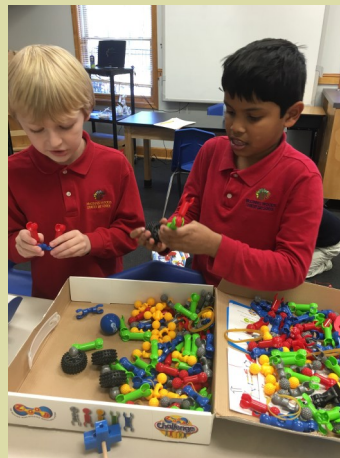
The Pre-K classes enjoyed a field trip to the Interactive Neighborhood for Kids. INK is a hands-on museum where children can role-play and learn through practical experiences. The hands-on exhibits included a variety of STEM related professions. The children enjoyed being airplane pilots, doctors, nurses, veterinarians, radiologists, dentists, and bankers. INK really let the children's imaginations run wild while they learned about the world around them. The exhibits immerse the students into the "real world" in a fun and manageable way.



## *STEM Club Fun!*



STEM Club members have had a great time during their Discovery Club. During the first week they explored the different centers and activities available in our STEM room. Students made snap circuits, built with marshmallows and toothpicks, explored using Gears, made towers with cups, and built houses with Texo blocks. The next week we explored with magnets and learned all about their many properties. We learned what makes magnets attract and repel and then we went on a magnet scavenger hunt to see which items we could find that are magnetic. Students had an amazing time making their own magnet movie complete with a setting and characters. What creative students we have





## *Middle Schoolers Discover DaVinci*

The Middle School students had the opportunity to enhance their learning of STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics) by taking a field trip to see the “DaVinci Machines Exhibition” on December 17th. The exhibition, which was on loan from the Museum of Leonardo DaVinci in Florence, Italy, provided the students a rare opportunity to experience many of Leonardo DaVinci’s inventions up close. As part of the tour, students were able to examine over 60 hand-crafted inventions built from DaVinci’s 500 year old designs, including the “bicycle”, “spring powered car”, “hang glider” the “air screw” - a precursor to the helicopter. Many of the machines were interactive, so students were able to get a hands-on experience. Explanatory notes and illustrative panels with Leonardo’s drawings accompanied each model, so students could see the design and engineering process.



Students were also able to appreciate DaVinci’s artistic brilliance because the exhibit included reproductions of his most important works of art. These included paintings, drawings, and sculptures, which are original cast reproductions created directly from the Master’s works by the National Academy of Cast Making in Florence. Seeing these reproductions up close was a real eye-opening experience for our students. The sheer size of his Last Supper masterpiece really brought DaVinci’s genius to life!

The tour ended with a short film, which offered a closer look at DaVinci’s life. The students (and teachers) were left with the message that life is filled with opportunities to learn and create. The experience encouraged our students to “Discover the DaVinci in You!”





## Day 100 Fun by Mr. Josh



We have been in school for 100 days already! Time sure flies when you're having fun! And everyone knows that the pinnacle of school fun occurs in Kindergarten and First Grade (at least in my “not-so-humble” opinion)!

So, to celebrate the achievement of gleefully surviving these first 100 days of academic bliss, the Kindergarten and First Grade teams decide to collaborate in order to squeeze as much educationally, meaningful fun as possible out of this day!

We decided to have our Kindergarten & First Grade classes rotate from classroom to classroom to participate in exciting 100th day activities. Each of the fantastic four lead teachers stayed put in their classrooms as the different classes rotated to each room. Each teacher took a unique focus on their activities: **Science and Estimation:** Ms. Kammy had each of her groups estimate how full a cup would be when 100 drops of water was added to it. **Creative Craft:** Ms. Christy had each student take the numbers “1”, “0” and “0”. Then she challenged them to create a picture of anything they could imagine using these numbers as the main features within their creation. **Measuring & Probability:** Ms. Wendy gave each student a penny. Then she had them partner up and determine the probability of the coin landing on “heads” or “tails” when flipped 100 times. They had to record their results and determine if their estimated probability was correct. **Mixed Media Elderly Art:** Mr. Josh dialed up a wacky art project for his groups. After showing the students photographs of people who were 100 years old, they were given a blank face template and asked to draw a picture of what he or she might look like at 100 years old. Then the students cut out the face and glued it to a hilarious cartoon body of a grandma or grandpa. Cotton ball beards and long, gray, yarn hair was added to make the children’s artwork a true Masterpiece!



What grade would I give this amazing day? MMMmmm....how about a 100%!!!

## High Touch High Tech Visits 2nd and 4th Grades

With all of our emphasis on STEM learning, it is always a pleasure to partner with High Touch High Tech in order to bring important Science concepts to life. Today the 2nd and 4th graders learned all about the 7 types of simple machines and then they put their knowledge to work.



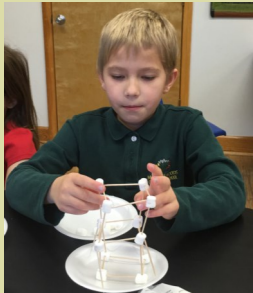
## *Career Day Volunteers Needed*

Calling all volunteers! We need your help to make this year's Careers and STEM in "My World of Work Week" amazing! This event takes place Monday, February 8th through Thursday, February 11th. We are looking for volunteers to share about their careers and encourage possible future career choices. If you or someone you know are willing to volunteer your time and expertise please fill out the form sent home and return it to school. We would like volunteers to share about their careers for 15-20 minutes and may include visuals, examples, or activities that highlight your job and your journey to achieving your position.

So far we have guest speakers representing the fields of Project Management, Architecture, Research Scientist, Diver/Detective, and Biomedical Technologist lined up. The students have shown interest in many other careers such as an attorney, a chef, a professional athlete, a nurse, a marine biologist, a zoologist, a pilot and many more. We are working with Elachee Nature Center to secure the Star Lab to enlighten any future astronomers we might have, too. Please volunteers and help to shape the young minds of our future engineers, scientists, doctors, architects and accountants!

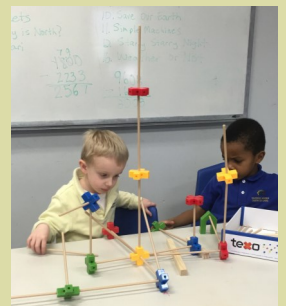


## *Third Discovery Clubs Session Begins*



The third session of discovery clubs began the week of January 11. This session we offered Animation, Cheer, Chess, Comic-Con, Cooking, Jr. Robotics, Varsity and JV Football, STEM and Drama. Clubs that meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays will end the week of February 16, Monday clubs will end on February 28, and Wednesday and Friday clubs will end the last week of February.

A Mandarin Chinese demonstration was offered one morning to determine interest in the addition of this program to our before school program. Currently we do not have enough interest to add this program. Additionally, a Basketball Hoops club designed for our younger students to learn the basics of basketball and get excited and ready to compete on our 5th - 8th grade basketball teams was added. The young players are having a fantastic time.





## Spelling Bee 2016



Just how important is Spelling? Well, if you ask any of the students at McGinnis Woods they will tell you very important. During the week of January 18th, students in Pre-K through 8th grade competed in our school Spelling Bee. Competition was fierce as students were well prepared for the Spelling Bee. They studied long and hard over winter break to learn many challenging words.

When asked what her favorite part of the spelling bee was, fourth grade student Kendall Tate said, “just being in the Spelling Bee. Since it’s the first one I’ve been in ever!” Every speller was supported by their classmates in the audience. Students sat and listened attentively watching the bee take place. “I liked when Advaith won for our class” said Channing Redmon, a kindergarten student.

After four days of competition a school champion emerged. Andrew Krause, a seventh grader, spelled subterfuge as his winning word. Our first runner-up, Joshua Chisolm, is another seventh grader. Both students will represent our school when we compete in the GISA District Spelling Bee. Please congratulate all of our students for a job well done. We are so very proud of all their efforts and accomplishments!



## Atlanta Falcons Gatorade Junior Training Camp Visits McGinnis Woods



We were excited to host the ATLANTA FALCONS GATORADE JUNIOR TRAINING CAMP 2016 at McGinnis Woods on Tuesday, January 26 in the gym. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about physical activity and safety in an exciting way.

The camp is a program geared towards third through fifth graders that stresses the importance of proper football technique, promotes physical activity and proper hydration. It takes the students through 5 football stations. Each camp begins with a brief pep talk and ends with a fun activity for everyone involved. All the equipment and supplies are provided by the Atlanta Falcons and Gatorade. Thank you to the parent volunteers for helping to make this mini camp a success!

# *McGinnis Woods Middle School*

McGinnis Woods Country Day Middle School Program is a special part of our school. The teaching team works together to create a challenging, exciting and nurturing program for students in 5th – 8th grades. Each month, students attend field trips carefully chosen that connect real world experiences to learning in the classroom. Students are also provided with many opportunities to develop leadership skills, hone their social skills, and learn to work as a teammate through competitive school sports, Musical Theater, or any of our Science/Robotic opportunities.

During this quarter, Language Arts classes are working on a research project with Ms. Melisa. As a springboard to the Science Fair Project in March and in conjunction with Social Studies, the Language Arts classes will be focusing on research techniques, gathering information about scientists, inventors, scientific discoveries, inventions, fields of science, and incorporating information into research reports and research papers. During Writer's Workshop every Wednesday, students will work on their extended projects throughout the month of February.

Our seventh grade math students are busy learning about probability with Ms. Pam. They have been discussing permutation, combinations, theoretical and experimental probability. The class has come up with so many examples of use of probability in the real world! Here are just a few that we have discovered:

Genetics  
Password possibilities  
Sports  
Life expectancy  
Weather forecasting  
Batting Averages  
Winning the Powerball  
Polling  
Medical Testing

There are so many more. Can you think of any?

The Middle School Team offers academic rigor for all of the students. Instruction is differentiated and students are afforded the opportunity to participate in instruction in the grade leveled materials necessary. The Middle School teaching team offers academic tutoring for students both before and after school when students need additional instruction with course work. Scheduled times are available for individual and small group instruction in all content areas. Middle School parents may contact specific academic teachers to make tutoring arrangements.

Finally, it is never too late to begin planning for middle school. Come visit the middle school, meet the teachers, and see all the fun learning going on in the McGinnis Woods Middle School.





## *The Lion King Junior to be Performed in April*



The McGinnis Woods Drama Club is pleased to announce that they will be performing The Lion King Jr this spring. Performance dates are April 28-30 with two shows scheduled for the 30th. The cast list was recently sent out and excitement for the show is building.

Xylina Stamper, McGinnis Woods Drama Director, is thrilled to be bringing this ambitious show to our school. Her creative vision of the show and set design will transform our stage and gym into another place and time. She is directing the show with the assistance of Mr. Brandon and Mr. Sterling who are filling the roles of choreographer and vocal coach.

Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date, so that you can experience The Lion King Jr with us.

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## *Plan to Spend the Summer With Us*



Summer will soon be upon us and we're busy planning our Sunsational Summer Camp 2016! We are ready for an amazing summer filled with great exciting themes, caring counselors, super activities, interesting field trips, daily STEM activities, water play and much more. We have amazing art projects planned and special guests scheduled to keep our minds learning.

We are visiting sunsational places like Stone Mountain, Build-a-Bear, Top Golf and Art Barn. We will have a fantastic time with water play activities, nature walks, and daily group games in our beautiful air conditioned gym. Our Specialty and Academic Camps offer a variety of educational ways to sharpen your skills and expand your minds during the summer. Have you ever wanted to learn to cook, swim, do gymnastics or learn how to act? Well, you can this summer at McGinnis Woods!

You do not want to miss out on any of the fun during our Sunsational Summer Camp; you may plan to come for a week and decide to stay for the summer because we know you will be glad you came! We hope to see you this summer!





## Pictures from Around the School

