

McGinnis Woods Buzz



March 2011, Volume 2, Issue 6



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| 3/22: | Internet Safety Presentation, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm |
| 3/21-3/25: | Stanford Standardized Testing, 1st-8th Grades |
| 3/28: | Humane Society, Guest Speaker, PreK4-8th |
| 3/28 4/1- | Parent Association/Beta Club Pet Drive |
| 4/4-4/8: | Spring Break
Afterschool Only |
| 4/17: | Discovery Clubs End this Week |
| 4/23: | Spring Carnival, 11 am-2:00 pm |

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

"The March wind roars
Like a lion in the sky,
And makes us shiver
As he passes by.
When winds are soft,
And the days are warm and clear,
Just like a gentle lamb,
Then spring is here."
- Author Unknown



March has arrived and spring is in the air and with warmer weather, unique opportunities beyond the classroom curriculum take place. The students in 5th-8th grades just returned from their annual overnight trip. This year they went to Jekyll Island. During their time away the students were able to spend some intensive time learning about the Georgia Island through hands on opportunities designed to compare what they have learned in the classroom in Science and Social Studies to what really exists on Jekyll. This is one of the many things that long time parents and teachers love about McGinnis Woods. Making learning relevant is always our goal, and our teachers strive to find great trips which extend the classroom learning and are fun, too!

We also have an author visit scheduled. Lucas Lee, a 5th degree black belt, recently published a delightful tale, *BAEOH*, about how a tiger earns his stripes through good character and leadership qualities. We are so excited about the visit on Friday, March 18 at 9:00am, because the timing could not be better as our students in 1st-8th recently completed their Young Authors project where each student wrote and published a manuscript. Each class will have a book reading and signing once the published works are delivered, so be ready to join us as we celebrate the students' great accomplishments!

Be sure to join us on Tuesday evening, March 22 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. to hear Forsyth County Sheriff Peter Sabella's presentation about Internet Safety. Many students fall prey to pitfalls of the internet. Learn to avoid these.

March 21-25 is Stanford 10 testing week for students in 1st-8th grades. The students are well prepared so now it is up to all of you to ensure that they get plenty of rest, eat hearty breakfasts and get to school on time in order to do their best.

Happy spring!

Wildcat Chat

The Wildcat Track & Field season has been going very well so far. Although our team has been hit hard by the sporadic March weather, we have done well in the meets that we have competed in.

Our first meet at Davis Academy saw the team bring down seven school records and two firsts overall. Record setters included: Sam Zoldock (PV), Adrienne Lee (HJ), Tomisin Odetoyinbo (HJ, TJ, LJ, 2 first places), Maddy Sherbert (DT, SP), and Jared Smith (DT). Our back-up performances from the rest of the team were also solid.



Turning to the track at Galloway on March 2nd, the team really showed some of what will be coming by championship time. This meet the Wildcats took home five more school records. Record setters were: Adrienne Lee (800, 300H), Courtney Stuart (3200), Brad Dull (300H) and Tomisin Odetoyinbo (200).

The relay teams are looking even better than last year and the kids are showing how hard work is starting to pay off.

Our next meet will be at Oglethorpe University on March 23. Come out and support the team!

Field Trip of the Month: Jekyll Island



Each year, the students in 1-8th grade participate in great, educational overnight trips. The 5-8th graders left our school at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, March 14 to head to the 4H Camp of Jekyll Island. Although this was a rough way to greet the Monday after the time change, everyone arrived with a smile and an enthusiastic spirit of adventure.

While at the camp, the students had a wonderful time attending fantastic classes which featured both ocean and land. The 8th grade curriculum standards focus on the great state of Georgia, so this trip tied in perfectly. Students were introduced to many animals native to the island and

also participated in a Maritime Forest class which taught them all about the flora and fauna on the island.

The beautiful blue skies and balmy weather added to the amazing experience. The students were able to hike on the beach, tromp around in a marsh, ride bikes and just hang out with their friends, classmates and teachers.

This will be one field trip that will not be easily forgotten!



Upcoming Spring Carnival

Save the Date

Join us at the annual Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 23, 2011, from 11a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be a wonderful time of games, refreshments, crafts, bungee jumps, pony and train rides, and a giant obstacle course! Presale admission is \$12 per child and \$7 per adult. All admission will be \$12 the day of the event.

A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the Second Grade Team

Meet the amazing second grade team. They are having a wonderful time teaching second graders this year!

Ms. Kim Kershaw and Mr. Steven Robinson make up the 2nd Grade Fish. Ms. Kim grew up outside of Rochester, N.Y., and graduated with her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Sociology from SUNY Brockport. She married her husband of ten years, Brad, and moved to Atlanta. Ms. Kim completed her Masters in Early Childhood Education at Georgia State University while working at McGinnis Woods. This is her twelfth year at the school, and she has taught everything from PreK up to 6th grade. She is feeling very at home teaching second grade as this is her sixth year at this grade level. She has two precious girls, Tori, who is in the 2nd Grade and Julianna, who is in PreK. Outside of school, she loves to go to the movies, listen to music, and catch up on favorite TV shows, read and scrapbooking. Her husband, Brad, works as a homicide detective in DeKalb County, and they love spending their weekends playing with the girls and being with friends and family.



Mr. Steven is the latest member of the Second Grade Fish. He graduated from Georgia State in December with BBA in Accounting. He is very familiar with McGinnis Woods, and we are happy to have him join our staff. He has been a kindergarten assistant and has worked many of our summer camps and after school programs. In his free time, he enjoys playing with his dogs, eating out with friends and going to the movies. He plans to begin graduate school somewhere in Georgia in the fall.

Ms. Wendy Haman and Ms. Rebecca Weaver are the 2nd Grade CATS. Ms. Wendy is enjoying her first year with the second grade team! This is her fourth year of teaching at McGinnis Woods. She has fourteen years of teaching experience with preschool and elementary children. She received her B.A. from Virginia Tech and her M.Ed. from the University of Richmond. Her family includes her husband of 9 years, Mike, her daughter, Molly, who is eight years old and her son, Ben, who is two years old. Both of her children attend McGinnis Woods. For fun, she likes to play the trombone, read, and work on scrapbooking.

Ms. Rebecca with the 2nd Grade CATS has been at McGinnis Woods for three years. This is her second year with the second graders. Ms. Rebecca grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She also holds an MBA from Emory University and recently completed the coursework and fieldwork required for her Georgia teaching certificate. Her two sons, Nathan and William, both attend McGinnis Woods, and they are so proud to be Wildcats! In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking (especially baking), and gardening.

Ms. Samantha Beckman and Ms. Lauren Donelson make up the 2nd Grade Bears. Ms. Sam grew up in Sandy Springs and graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education from Kennesaw State University. This is her 5th year at McGinnis Woods. She fell in love with 2nd grade last year. Ms. Sam has been married to her husband, Brian, for 12 years. They have two children, Cole and Alexandria, and two dogs, Sophie and Champers. This year Cole is in 5th grade and Alexandria is in 3rd grade. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, cooking and watching television.

Ms. Lauren with the 2nd Grade Bears was born in Sandy Springs, Georgia, and is a native Georgian. Ms. Lauren graduated from Georgia Southern University with a B.A. in Child and Family Development. She currently lives in Roswell with her sister, Jill, and her one and a half year old brown lab named Lucky. This is her second year at McGinnis Woods, and she is so excited to be in second grade!

Technology Committee Forming

Are you interested in educational trends in technology? Do you enjoy working with technology? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, then we have a great opportunity for you. We are forming a Technology Committee to help us as we continue to expand the technological capabilities we have at our



school and their many applications within the classroom. This focus group will work to formulate a vision and mission for how to use technology to enhance learning at McGinnis Woods. It will also create a long range plan regarding future initiatives, staff development and issues relating to technology.

Please join us and share your thoughts and expertise about this important learning tool. If you would like to be a part of this new group, please contact Mr. Steve swells@mcginniswoods.org or Ms. Jacki jfree-man@mcginniswoods.org so that you will be notified of upcoming meetings.

Wildcat Wonders Summer Camp

Summer is right around the corner! What do you have planned for your students? Please join us for our fun and exciting “Wildcat Wonders!” summer camp. This exciting summer of camp will begin the week of May 31 and run weekly themed sessions ending August 12. Children may attend individual weeks or the entire summer. Camp hours are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at a cost of \$225.00 weekly. Before and/or after camp care is available at an additional fee.



Students will spend their days in small groups led by many familiar staff members and a few new friends, too. Each week will include arts and crafts, computers, playground games, water activities, board games, and team sports. Students will go on weekly field trips off-site.

Interesting guest speakers will add to our fun and learning as we explore themes including “2011 Space Odyssey,” “Digging Up Dinosaurs,” and “Wonders of the World.” Water activities are scheduled each week. Specialty camps including Swimming, Cooking, Robotics, Golf, Karate, Chess, and Private Musical Instruction are available at an additional fee.

Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

The month of March is upon us. Let's hope the groundhog was right and spring will be in full bloom very soon! This month, the preschool children are learning about forest animals, rain & rainbows, spring, and animals born from eggs. Our nursery rhyme of the month is *Three Little Kittens*. Ask your child to recite it for you.

The preschool teacher of the month is Ms. Barbara in Pre-K 3/4. She has been a part of the preschool for three and a half years and brings a smile and enthusiasm to her students each day. The Senior Infant room was chosen as room of the month. Ms. Sara and Ms. Simi enjoy engaging the older infants in art, stories, and music. They are inspired by their little students' expressions of joy!



We had a special guest visit us on March 9th, Queen Glitter, a storyteller. She shared her love of books with the children. The children in 3TA through Pre-K 3/4 had the opportunity to see her. Ask your child about the story she shared, *Alligator Baby*. You can enjoy pictures of the children and Queen Glitter on the monitor in the preschool lobby.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the preschool on March 21st-25th. Books will be for sale all day in the preschool lobby. Be sure to stop by and take a look at all of the age appropriate titles. The money raised through this sale will be used to purchase books for our Teacher Resource Area.

School pictures were taken the first week of March. The children looked so cute!! Watch for the proofs to arrive in the coming weeks.

Our preschool utilizes The Creative Curriculum. In order to familiarize you with the curriculum, during the next few months we will spotlight a specific aspect of the curriculum. This week's spotlight is on the *library area* of a classroom. The *library area* is a very important part of the classroom because it is an inviting place where children can relax and enjoy the wonderful world of literature. This center gives the children an opportunity to hold books and enjoy their colorful illustrations and fun rhymes and interesting stories that stretch the imagination. This provides the foundation necessary for developing great readers. The teachers also read stories to the children introducing new ideas and encouraging them to develop a love of books.

As always, feel free to stop by the preschool at anytime and see all the wonderful things that are going on in our classrooms.

Introducing Ankle Biter Tennis

Spring is in the air and a new session of Discovery Clubs is underway. We have a unique opportunity for our Preschool and PreK 4 and 5 students. It is called Ankle Biter Tennis. This new program focuses on developing hand-eye coordination, improved motor function, and the instruction of simple ball striking skills in a fun atmosphere. This is a great way to introduce your little one to a great lifelong activity! The cost is \$50 per month and will take place in the McGinnis Woods PE room. Portable nets allow the classes to be held indoors regardless of the weather. Each participant receives a new, child sized tennis racquet. The Preschoolers will attend classes on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and the PreK4 and 5 participants will meet on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. There is still time to sign up.



PA Board Update

Our Teacher Appreciation Week celebration was a SUPER success! Our Teachers enjoyed wonderful gestures of appreciation throughout the week including a Super Hero breakfast, a dossier with their Super Hero information, a Subway gift card for a Super "Hero" sandwich, a keepsake photo signed by the students, delectable sweet treats one afternoon, gift cards from you, a fantastic raffle and finally a special barbecue lunch catered by Jim and Nick's. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all the parents who volunteered to assist during this week and a special thank you to Chris Earwood for her vision for our Super Hero HQ. We are grateful to her for donating, designing and overseeing the installation of the decorations.



Junior Achievement

The K-8 students of McGinnis Woods have been participating in the annual Junior Achievement program. The goal of Junior Achievement is to inspire students to compete and succeed in a global community. We have had many volunteers taking time out of their work schedules to provide lessons in the areas of business, entrepreneurship, personal financial literacy, and workforce readiness. The program also encourages students to set long term career goals and learn the value of an excellent education. The curriculum aligns to the Georgia Performance Standards and enhances the students learning in the classroom with real life, hands-on application. Thanks to our committed volunteers for taking time from their busy schedules to teach our students: Nandita Thakur, Ali Sparrow, Thea Stuart, Alyssa Lane, Marci Gold and Barb Earley, John Marasco, Wendy Hamann, Suzette Romer, Ameet Chaubal, Hala Yassine, Tanya Smith and Angie Field.



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Classroom Spotlight: The Amazing Reading Race

The second grade classes have been reading around the world the past month! They traveled to each of the seven continents and learned about a different genre such as mystery, adventure, fantasy, historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction and biography. Ms. Jacki helped the students pick a book from a different genre each week, and they wrote about the story in their Reading Race passport. The students marked off the continents as we finished each genre. What a fun project! It incorporated reading, writing and social studies!

