

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



November 2012, Volume 4, Issue 2



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

12/3 - 12/7	Holiday Shoppe
12/11	Chorus Performance 6:00
12/13	Band Concert 6:00 PM
12/17 - 12/18	Winter Science Cub PreK—4th
12/20 - 1/7	No School—Winter Break—After School Only
12/24- 12/25	Closed for Christmas

## 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

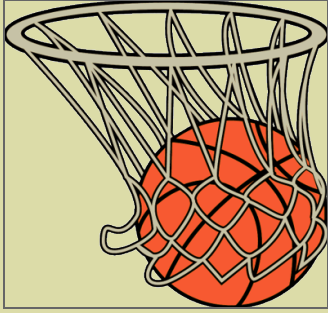
Thanksgiving time has arrived and once again, we welcome this special time of year, set aside to reflect on that which we have to be thankful for. All of us at McGinnis Woods realize that we have so much to be thankful for each and every day. Here are a few of our blessings:

- We are thankful for the wonderful students who greet us with smiles each day and inspire us to do our jobs with enthusiasm and joy.
- We are thankful for our colleagues and friends, often one and the same, with whom we share this educational journey.
- We are thankful for the founders of our school who followed their dreams to start a Country Day school more than a decade ago and for their tenacity and persistence throughout the years.
- We are thankful for the wonderful area in which we live and the great opportunity we have to get out into the community each month to explore museums, visit historic sites and take part in unique experiences that teach us so much about our world.
- Most of all we are thankful for you. Without your trust and investment into your child's today and tomorrow, we would cease to exist and this is a fact that we do not take lightly. Our desire is to *inspire students with the passion to excel* and we are thankful that we can live out this goal each day!



We hope that you take the time to read this edition of the McGinnis Woods Buzz. It highlights some of the happenings taking place here on campus this month, although there is much, much more we could share.

**From all of us at McGinnis Woods,  
we wish you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving!**



## Wildcat Chat

### Wildcat Basketball Season Preview 2012-2013

With the new Basketball Season right around the corner and games about to begin, how will our teams do? There are some promising signs that all the teams will do well. We have a record number of participants and many of the players have multiple years of experience in the game.

#### Girls A-Team

Last year's team finished 1-8 and we are eager to improve that record this year.

The Wildcats will bring back four experienced players and some B-Team members who have moved up. The team should be much improved from last year. Returners Katherine Gall, Courtney Stuart, Kasey Baker and Teema Yassine expect to be real contributors to the team. New players Maddie Moore, Gabby Scott, and Carly Bachism look to make their mark on the team. Coach Fairbanks has confidence that the team will do well and be play-off contenders this year.

#### Girls B-Team

Our B-Team looks to be a bit better than last year's bunch. They come to the season with more experience and better overall skill. They will play a full schedule this year as well as a season ending tournament at the Howard School in January. Look for some real performances from players Med Kadiyala, Alex Beckman, and Vivian Longo. Coach Robyn Hogan will have the team ready for their opening game on December 3rd.

#### Boys A-Team

With the graduation of many of the starters from last year's play-off team, this looks like a rebuilding year. A tough schedule awaits this young and inexperienced team. How will they do this year? We will see. Returners Chris Lee, Peyton Presley, and Ethan Montgomery will lead the team in experience. New players that look to make an impact are Jason Son, AJ Stein, and Cole Beckman. Coach Jim Stuart is readying the team for the coming challenge of the season. The team opens November 27th with Heritage Prep School.

#### Boys B-Team

This will be the second year of having a Boys B-Team at our school. The team also looks to be a good one. We hope to build on last year's success. All first year players, the B-Team is led by 6th graders Joe Sigman, Rithwik Koppa-ka and Max Howard. We have a few 5th graders on the team including Yong Jae Yu and Pierce Longo. Coach Heather has been working hard with the team and they look forward to their first game December 3rd.

## Red Ribbon Week : The Best We Can Be

Red Ribbon Week was a huge success at McGinnis Woods. Students learned a great deal about drugs including medicines, alcohol and tobacco. Fourth through eighth grades met with a member of the Forsyth County Police Department. Deputy Rainwater shared with the students the impact choosing drugs can have on an individual's life. Students also had fun participating in theme days centered around our overall theme "The Best Me is Drug Free!" We look forward to reinforcing these important safety ideas throughout the school year.



# Annual Art Show Success



Our annual art show was quite a success! Many families enjoyed viewing the displayed art and purchased their students' masterpieces. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful art work and the variety of techniques displayed throughout the show. Different techniques taught by Ms. Elise were showcased throughout the show. These included: geometric shape figures, watercolors, still life sketches and pastels. The refreshment table was gorgeous and plentiful thanks to our parent and teacher volunteers. This year, we also had a table

full of art supplies that our students could purchase for use in creating their own originals. A BIG thank you goes out to all parents, teachers, and assistants who volunteered. We couldn't have had the show go so smoothly without your help. If you were unable to attend the show but wish to purchase your child's artwork, you can still order through November 21<sup>st</sup>.



## Thankful Feasts: Thanksgiving Feasts Provide Lasting Memories



Thanksgiving Feasts are one of the special traditions that herald the beginning of the holiday season at McGinnis Woods. This year the 4-8<sup>th</sup> graders turned their feast day into a *Service and Sweets* celebration. During *Service and Sweets* the students prepared over 200 sack lunches which were delivered that afternoon to The Place, a nonprofit social service organization located in Forsyth County. The lunches included lunchmeat sandwiches and condiments, chips, apples, cookies and a candy treat. Many also included special Thanksgiving greetings filled with sweet wishes which had been made by the students. After the productive sandwich and sack preparations the students performed a few song selections for their parents and enjoyed some sweet treats together.

The other feast days were filled with great entertainment, food and friendship. Ms. Xylina lead the students as they sang fun songs and acted out the musical *The Turkey and the Eagle*, a traditional folktale that explains how the eagle became our national bird. All of the students looked great in their costumes and headpieces and there were plenty of smiles and great food to go around. This is a feasting season that will not be forgotten!

## Annual GISA Conference

On Monday, November 5, the teachers and administration attended the Georgia Independent School Association's (GISA) annual conference. This conference provides teachers and administrators the opportunity to share knowledge and learn innovative ways to best teach our students. This year we were fortunate to have our technology teacher, Mr. Steve Wells, represent our school and lead one of the sessions in educational technology. The keynote speaker was a New York Times best-selling author named Daniel Pink. Mr. Pink's books focus on the ever-changing demands of the global workforce, and his lecture highlighted ways educators can help prepare students for the future. We all agreed that attending the conference was beneficial and we look forward to next year's conference.





## 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Visit the Atlanta History Center

On Friday, October 26th, the fourth grade Comets and Suns traveled to the Atlanta History Center in connection with our study of Native Americans. It was a beautiful day to participate in a new program called "In Their Moccasins: The Cherokee Journey of Change". Students were transported to 1838 as the Cherokee were forced from their Georgia homeland and onto the Trail of Tears. We were able to examine artifacts that illustrated Cherokee culture and adaptations before and after contact with Europeans.



Students then heard from the "daughter" of Sequoyah, who invented the Cherokee alphabet, and learned how to write their names in Cherokee. Finally, we were led on an unforgettable journey through the winding trails of the Center, experiencing the hardships of the Trail of Tears. Each student was assigned an actual historical figure to represent on our Trail of Tears. It was an incredible day, filled with dynamic learning and newfound empathy for Native Americans!



## Preschool Corner (Infants through Pre-K3/4)

We're busy as bees here in the preschool! October ended with our families enjoying both the Pumpkin Patch and our annual Halloween Parade. The Scholastic Book Fair also wrapped up successfully and teachers and children are now enjoying the wonderful books purchased for them!



Holiday celebrations have already begun, kicking off with our Diwali theme this week. Children learned all about this festival of lights and had a great time sampling treats and seeing traditional cultural dress. Next month, we will continue our holiday studies as we learn about Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.

Be sure to drop by the front desk to sign up for holiday pictures, which will be taken November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to choose an ornament from our Holiday Wish Tree! Each year, the McGinnis Woods Parent Association partners with NFCC to help make the holidays a little brighter for families in need of assistance. You and your family can be part of this great tradition by having your child pick out a "wish" item to purchase and then return to the tree, unwrapped, by November 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a fantastic opportunity to help your young one learn about the importance of giving during this Holiday season.





## Discovery Clubs

Discovery clubs are getting into some exciting adventures at McGinnis Woods! The second session started on November 6, 2012 after a very eventful first session. Last session, the cheerleaders put on a display of their hard work at the pep-rally, and the dance team performed a very exciting routine. Brennan Marasco even managed to dance his way in to the crowd's heart with his solo performance!

As the second session starts, the drama club will embark on a new journey. They will begin rehearsals for their upcoming production of Disney's *Aladdin*, which will be presented in May. The dance team will also begin new rehearsals with their team members creating another awe-inspiring routine to be featured at the pep-rally in January. Alongside these treasured clubs, new clubs are on the rise! McGinnis Woods is offering a chess club, where students will learn basic skills to play this strategic game. The second session is off to an abundant start by offering students a Bugs and Safari adventure, football, robotics, cooking, and many more! These clubs offer students numerous ways to explore hobbies and interests and they all challenge students at McGinnis Woods to excel in all aspects of life.

## Falcan Food Drive



McGinnis Woods participated in the 2012 FalCan Food Drive School Challenge. There were over 80 schools that participated this year and McGinnis Woods came in 7th place with 1,764 pounds of food! Thank you to everyone for contributing! An exciting 60,664 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable food items were collected by all the schools for the Georgia Mountain Food Bank.



## Spooky Science

Spooky Science groups met on the afternoons of October 29th and October 30th to enjoy several fun, Halloween themed experiments. Some of the activities involved "Dancing Ghosts", "Frankenworms", "Magic Cups", "Invisible Ink" and "Flarp". Everyone was amazed with the dry ice experiments that "Mad Scientist" Ms. Sam performed! She made a spoon sing, created fog and made a balloon expand. "Mad Scientist" Ms. Wendy provided a tasty snack of "dirt and worms" for all of the scientists to make. It was delicious!



Be on the lookout for information about our Winter Science Club being featured December 17th and 18th.

# *Election Day ~ The Votes Are In At McGinnis Woods*

## *McGinnis Woods Elects President in National Mock Election and 2012 McGinnis Woods Student Council Officers*

### **Presidential and Student Council Elections**



The students of McGinnis Woods participated in two types of elections over the past few weeks. On October 30<sup>th</sup> registered schools from around the nation participated in an online election hosted by Studies Weekly. Students cast their vote for president online and watched as votes were tallied around the nation in real time. Students saw the percentages of students that voted Republican or Democrat at our school, in our state and throughout the country. We also watched as the states on the map of the US changed to red or blue as students in all 50 states voted!

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Election Day, adults were not the only ones to experience the voting process. Students in grades Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade participated in a mock election at our unofficial polling place, Ms. Nicole's 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom!

The classroom was complete with voting booths, ballots

and ballot boxes. Students entered voting booths to cast their ballot for president before turning in their ballots and receiving a sticker for doing their civic duty. Kindergarteners through 8<sup>th</sup> graders were also able to cast their vote for the McGinnis Woods Student Council officers. The process was run by the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students during their social studies classes. They led students to empty booths, handed out ballots, and helped students place their ballots in the box before giving the students that voted their stickers. Students were excited to take part in an activity their parents would do that same day!



November 6, 2012 marked our country's election and the important McGinnis Woods Student Council election. There were many amazing candidates running for office this year. The students ran a clean campaign and showed such a high level of professionalism. We are so proud! They are all winners in our book. The new officers will begin their year of service with a Chick-fil-A order in day.

**Congratulations to our 2012-2013 Student Council Officers.**

**President: Courtney Stuart**

**Vice President: Teema Yassine**

**Secretary: Gabby Scott**

**Treasurer: Christopher Lee**



# News from our Parent Association

A McGinnis Woods tradition of sponsoring several local families in need through the North Fulton Community Charities Program began this week. This sponsorship program allows McGinnis Woods students and families to experience the joy of helping others! Many families are struggling to make ends meet within our community and this is especially true during the holiday season. Extending our spirit of giving and caring is essential this time of year- so please, don't walk away from the NFCC Wish Tree without picking up an ornament and contributing something.

In both the Preschool and the Elementary School our NFCC Wish Trees are decorated with wish ornaments provided by the families that participate in the program. We have added several Publix and Kroger gift cards so that each family can purchase a full holiday dinner. No one needs to go hungry over the holidays.

Coming Soon.....Holiday Shoppe.....Sssssshhhh, it's a secret! This is a program that is fun and educational. Holiday Shoppe allows the children to "shop" (within a parentally approved budget) for their parents and loved ones without them having to make another trip to the busy shops and malls, or even knowing what has been purchased! The kids love this opportunity to surprise you, so please take advantage of this fun program. More information will be sent home in your child's binder in the coming weeks.

Earlier this year, money was raised that was earmarked for Teacher Grants. These grant requests have started coming in, and when the purchases are finalized we will update you with the new items that were purchased, or new programs that were implemented. Thank you for your continued support.

**We wish you all a great Thanksgiving holiday!**

## NFCC Family Tree

As has been our tradition for many years, McGinnis Woods families are once again sponsoring several local families in need through the North Fulton Community Charities Program. This sponsorship program allows McGinnis



Woods students and families to experience the joy of helping others! As you all know, many families are struggling to make ends meet within our community. This is especially true during the holiday season. Extending our spirit of giving and caring is

essential this time of year- so please, don't walk away from the NFCC Wish Tree without picking up an ornament and contributing something. Every gesture-no matter the size makes a big difference.



# Big Fun at Book Fair



This marks the tenth year McGinnis Woods has joined Scholastic Book Fairs in support of literacy. Our school hosts Scholastic Book fairs twice during the school year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The book fair theme for this fall was "All Star Book Fair, Every Reader Is A Star!"

Students enjoyed visiting the book fair to peruse books as they made their student wish lists. Teachers certainly loved receiving books from their Classroom Wish Lists and as gifts from students. Funds raised from book fairs assist us with purchasing books and other materials for the library and classrooms.

At this book fair Scholastic premiered *Storia*, a fun, interactive and educational e-reading app specially designed for children. Best of all, the app is free and grows with children from toddlers to teen years.

Download your free reading app at [www.scholastic.com/storia](http://www.scholastic.com/storia).

Thank you for your continued support of our Scholastic Book Fairs and your efforts to help students achieve higher learning through reading.

## Outdoor Explorers

On Sunday, November 11th, the Outdoor Explorers met to enjoy some gardening fun and a beautiful afternoon together. First, we cleaned the beds from this summer's growth and harvested the last few vegetables. McGinnis Woods students were able to enjoy some gorgeous fresh lettuce on the salad bar on Monday! We are still hoping for a crop of broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, and onions. We also planted pansies and ornamental cabbage to spruce up the now-empty beds. Next up was a walk in the woods to enjoy the fall foliage and collect pine cones for a project. We enjoyed a snack together before creating pine cone birdfeeders to hang in the trees and a cute take-home turkey. Watch out for the upcoming Grow-ems fundraiser which will help keep our community garden going!



## Afterschool Holiday Camp

Winter at the Woods 2012



Winter Break Camp Prek-8<sup>th</sup>

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> 2013

Join us for *Winter Wonderland at the Woods* during special days in December and January. We will make and enjoy Snowflake Creations, Icicle Pops, a Wintery Play put on by our very own Wildcats, Ice Skating at The Alpharetta Family Skate Center and a trip to the Center for Puppetry Arts to see *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*.

Don't miss out on all the activities, fun and adventures this *Winter at the Woods*.

Register today

Registration Forms Available 770.664.7764