



# McGinnis Woods Buzz

November 2010 Volume 2, Issue 2



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

Inspiring Students with the  
Passion to Excel

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 11/8: NCFE Food Drive Begins  
Project Showcase Due
- 11/12: P.A. Angel Tree Begins
- 11/15: Thanksgiving Feast  
12-1:30 p.m., 4th-8th
- 11/16: Thanksgiving Feast  
12-1:30 p.m., 2nd-3rd
- 11/17: Thanksgiving Feast  
12-1:30 p.m., K-1st
- 11/18: Thanksgiving Feast  
11:30-1 p.m., PreK 4&5
- 11/24-  
11/26: Thanksgiving Holidays  
(Wed.- Afterschool Only  
Thurs.-Fri.- School Closed)

## 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

November has arrived and the weather has turned colder. The trees are losing their leaves as quickly as they turn their vibrant colors. The holidays are upon us and we are excited to greet them, but we have much to accomplish before they officially arrive.

November 5th was our annual Art Show entitled "Night at the Museum." It was a wonderful time of celebrating our students' creativity and talents. Resident artist and Art Instructor, Mr. Joe, highlighted three themes during the show: Handy Tulips, Mola Collage and Cityscapes. Parents and guests enjoyed music and food as they browsed the gallery of framed student masterpieces.



We are very excited about our upcoming Thanksgiving Feasts. This year the Feasts will be held over four days. The students from PreK4-8 are learning songs, poems and creating wonderful artwork to highlight at our celebrations. Be sure to RSVP so we can prepare to welcome you to this kick off of the holiday season!

Besides all of these special events, the students are working hard to learn about their world and the fascinating topics that are being discussed each day. Students are learning about everything from ordinal number to cells and DNA. Amazing hands-on lessons have brought each of these topics to life for our students.

Student Council elections took place during the week of November 1-8. Sixteen of the 4-8<sup>th</sup> grade students created posters, handed out campaign stickers and made compelling speeches hoping to win votes. Congratulations to the 2010-11 Student Council Officers: Mackenzie Johnson, President, Natalie Mies, Vice President, Maddy Sherbert, Secretary, and Teema Yassine, Treasurer.

Exciting things are happening at McGinnis Woods!

## Wildcat Chat

### Wildcat Basketball Season Preview

With the fall season over and all of our successes in the books, it is time to turn our focus to basketball season! This year looks like another good one. The teams will have a ten game season that includes two home games and the hosting of "The Wildcat Basketball Tournament" in January.

#### Girls Preview:

The girls' team came out of last year's winning season (5-4) with three starters and a team full of experienced players. This year's team will carry 17 players that will be split into two teams: A-Team and B-Team. Each team will play a separate schedule. Games will begin on November 16, 2010.

Look for great plays from returners Adrienne Lee, Courtney Stuart, Lindsey Campbell, and Natalie Mies.

The team is working hard to get ready for opening day. Spirits are high, and they are getting very good at push-ups and the specific drills at practice. The first game (at home) will be held on Tuesday, November 16, McGinnis Woods versus the Atlanta Girls' School.

#### Boys Preview:

Jim Stuart is coaching the team and has a new attitude, the Wildcat Boys Team looks to be much improved over last year's team (3-6). The team consists of ten hard working boys that are planning to push hard for a winning record this season. First year coach, Jim, is optimistic and hoping for big things. Games begin November 17, 2010.

The team brings back most of the starting line-up that includes Sam Zoldock, Ryan Field, and Jared Smith. New players that should make their mark are Kyle Partain, Brad Dull, and Shreyas Krishnapura.

With the experience of the players and coach, look for a winning effort and a real shot at the tournament championship.



## Afterschool Discovery Clubs: So You Think You Can Dance?

So you think you can dance? This new, exciting class at McGinnis Woods is led by Ms. Xylina Nuckles Reynolds, Drama and Music Teacher. Ms. Xylina is so excited to teach this amazing class and says students have a blast. The kids learn to dance to funky and exciting music. Classes begin with a warm up and then progress into dancing to the latest hip hop and step. Ms. Xylina came up with this class to give kids an outlet to express themselves by using the art of dance. It is very up beat with the added benefit of exercise mixed with fun. So, put your dancing shoes on and come ready to sweat, laugh, and of course, dance!





## PA Board Update

November is upon us and with it comes Thanksgiving. Our renewed commitment to helping those less fortunate is best seen in our efforts to reach out into our community and extend a helping hand. To that end, we will be running a food drive through much of November to assist the North Fulton Community Charities" (NFCC) in their support of local families. The NFCC Food Pantry is still in dire need of food and baby care items. We hope you will join us once more in an effort to make a difference in our community.

In addition, as in the past, we will be adopting local families through the North Fulton Community Charities for the holidays. The NFCC Angel Trees will be up November 12<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by one of the trees, take an ornament and help make a family's holiday a little brighter. With your help, we hope to bring a few extra smiles to many families over the holidays.

Our Annual Holiday Shoppe is coming Dec 6-10<sup>th</sup>. This event allows for children to shop for their parents, siblings and extended families without "Mom" or "Dad" watching. Stay tuned for more information.

Again, congratulations to the winners of the fabulous Fall Festival Baskets. Thank you to all that contributed. Your participation directly benefits our students!



## Field Trip of the Month: Arigato, Sushi

This month, to conclude their social studies unit on Japan, the first graders of McGinnis Woods experienced a bit of Japanese culture right here at home. They ventured far (Windward Parkway!) to Sushi Nami, owned by one of McGinnis Woods' families. The Pandas and the Crabs enjoyed using chopsticks to try delicious Japanese cuisine including edamame, California sushi rolls, chicken/tofu teriyaki, and sweet potato fries. YUMMY! They also had the opportunity to use some of their new Japanese language skills to greet and thank their gracious hosts. The students had a great time while learning about Japanese food and culture.



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

November has arrived, and we are so excited about this month in the Preschool. The theme for the month is “Giving Thanks,” a simple yet profound concept that our little ones can grasp. We will focus on our forest friends, harvests, sharing, manners and holidays around the world. We will also be collecting can goods and dry goods for those in need during this special time of year. This is a simple, tangible way that our children can give back and make a real difference.

One of our McGinnis Woods’ traditions is adopting families in need of assistance through North Fulton Community Charities. The Holiday Trees, sponsored by our Parent Association, adorned with ornaments and gift requests will be placed in the foyer on Friday, November 12. Please choose an ornament and help us share our plenty with those less fortunate.

Each of the Preschool classes will have holiday celebrations complete with Pilgrim and Indian costumes to share with families and friends during the days leading up to our Thanksgiving break. Our school will be closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 to commemorate the holiday.

As always, we are most thankful for you and your families! We wish you a safe and memorable Thanksgiving.



### **“Specials” Program: Featuring Ms. Deborah Scarazzo, Band Teacher**

Ms. Deborah Scarazzo is the Band Director at McGinnis Woods. She teaches students in second through eighth grade. Students are introduced to their first instrument, the recorder, in the second grade and in third grade, they are able to choose an instrument and participate in the symphonic band.

Ms. Deborah is passionate about music. Influenced by her mother who directed the church choir, she started playing the flute when she was in the seventh grade. Prior to coming to McGinnis Woods, Ms. Deborah played the flute in various symphonies in addition to teaching at North Georgia and Reinhardt Colleges. She is very involved in performing at local churches and directing the children’s choir at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cumming. She also teaches the home school band, “Joyful Noise,” and provides individualized instruction on various instruments.

Ms. Deborah obtained her Bachelor of Music from the University of Denver and Master’s Degree in Music Education from Columbus State University. She did one year of graduate studies in flute performance at the distinguished DePaul University in Chicago.

Ms. Deborah lives in Cumming with her husband, Ron, and two children, Patrick who is nineteen, and Elena who is sixteen. Outside of her busy music life, Ms. Deborah enjoys cooking, camping, gardening, and playing with the family dogs, Princess and Coconut.



*Mark Your Calendar for the upcoming Band and Choral Concert which will be held on Thursday, December 9th at 6 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church.*



## A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the Fourth Grade Team

The fourth grade SUNS is all about success! SUNS stands for: Students Use New Skills everyday to grow and develop to their full potential. With the great leadership of Ms. Camberly and Ms. Cecilia, the students strive for nothing but the best.

Ms. Camberly Beatty began her career at McGinnis Woods in 2007 after graduating from Armstrong Atlantic State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She absolutely loved living in Savannah during her college career, but after graduating from college, she could not wait to move back home to Duluth because she missed her mother so much. Now, she lives with her husband and two cats, which she refers to as her "babies." Ms. Camberly looks forward to continuing to teach the fourth grade at McGinnis Woods, and one day obtaining her Master's degree.



Ms. Cecilia Walls (better known as Ms. Cece) has been teaching at McGinnis Woods for four years. She graduated from Grand Canyon University and previously taught at a Catholic school in Chicago for five years. She absolutely loves teaching, and saw that it was going to be her calling at a very young age. Ms. Cece's teaching does not end when she leaves "the Woods" each day. It continues with her two children, Elijah (13), and NiaMiah (8). When she is not teaching or tending to them, she enjoys cuddling up with a good book, watching a great movie, and eating a delicious meal. She enjoys teaching 4th grade language arts because this is the age where the molding and structuring of young adults really begins.

Ms. Cece and Ms. Camberly love teaching together at McGinnis Woods because it is a child-centered school that has high expectations for all students. They believe all children deserve the best education and are thankful for the McGinnis Woods environment, where they can inspire students with the passion to excel.

## Happy Veteran's Day!

The second graders made special surprises for some of our veterans just in time for Veteran's Day. The students and their teachers have talked about who veterans are and how they have helped to keep America free and strong. Our thanks goes out to them and all veterans this Veteran's Day!



# Special Visit from Digger Dog



The Utilities Protection Center of Georgia's mascot, Digger Dog, recently made a visit at McGinnis Woods promoting the message of safe digging. He shared information with the students about safe digging; smelling gas and acting fast; and safety techniques to use around overhead electrical lines. Digger demonstrated some of electricity's natural changes by telling the

students what to do around downed power lines. Also, Digger demonstrated what happens when electricity is manipulated as objects come into contact with overhead high voltage power lines. He described the hazards of a natural gas leak and what to do if you smell gas. The presentation was fun and engaging and well received by the students.



## *Classroom Spotlight: Pumpkin Pandemonium*

Pumpkin pandemonium prevailed on Thursday, October 28th, with Pumpkin Day in the second grade classrooms! All of the classes became pumpkin centers. There were science experiments, math activities, essay writing and coloring games. The fun began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 11:30 a.m. Students moved every 15 minutes to a new center with a break for snack. A lot of parents stopped by and helped, too. One of the messiest projects was counting the seeds from one of the biggest pumpkins, but the students used place value to help with this big counting task. The second grade team did a great job planning all of the pumpkin festivities, and everyone had fun learning across the curriculum using pumpkins!

