

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



October 2011, Volume 3, Issue 2



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10/22: Fall Festival, 3-6 pm
- 10/23: Red Ribbon Week
- 10/24: Discovery Club Registration and Signed Report Cards Due
- 10/28: Pep Rally at 2:00 pm
- 10/31: Discovery Clubs Begin Student Council Campaign Week
- 11/3: Art Show, 4:30-7 pm
- 11/11: Spirit Shirt Day

## 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...

Message From Ms. Mary.....1	About our Teachers.....4	Classroom Spotlight.....6
Wildcat Chat.....2	Volunteering.....4	Discovery Clubs.....7
"Specials Program".....2	Preschool Corner.....5	Red Ribbon Week.....7
PA Board Update.....3	Yogli Mogi Night.....5	Jr. Beta Club Update.....7
Soccer Championship.....3	Field Trip of the Month.....6	Library Update.....7

## A Message From Ms. Mary

Fall is upon us, the leaves are changing, the air is crisp and our students are changing along with the season. We have seen so much progress and excitement about learning throughout our school.

Our halls have had many visitors these past few weeks as teachers and parents have met to discuss students and their progress during Parent Teacher Conferences. We have enjoyed sharing great information with you all and gleaned new insights about the children that we teach. We have a wonderful community of learners at our school!

All of our 1<sup>st</sup> graders and new students at our school were introduced to the world of standardized testing as they took the Stanford 10 series of tests during the week of October 3-7. We use these test results to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses of each student, so that we can then address their needs within the classroom. All students in 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will take additional Stanford 10 tests in March of 2012. At that time, we will be able to share the test results with parents and determine actual academic growth for each student.

Our first season of sports has just concluded and we are now registering for the Boys and Girls Wildcat Basketball Teams. All of our fall teams did remarkably well and we are very proud of our students and parents' commitment and dedication to Cross Country, Volleyball and Soccer. Our athletes improved their personal bests, learned new skills and had a great time of camaraderie with their team mates. We also came home with a championship trophy which is on display in our trophy case. You can read more about that accomplishment in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 22 from 3-6 for our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival. It will include festive fair food (even funnel cakes), fun crafts, pony rides, a haunted house, a cake walk, large inflatable slides, a costume party and the ever popular spider jump! Our chorus students will perform some spooky favorites they have prepared. It is sure to be a great time for all!



# Wildcat Chat

## WILDCAT SPORT FALL SEASON ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE!!

The Wildcat Teams have finished the fall season with many successes. The teams all did well and our school has had a great beginning to the year.

### Volleyball:

Our Wildcat "Netters" played all their games close. They missed the play-offs and had a 1-5 record, but they stayed spirited and enthusiastic. The team was small in numbers (6 players), but played with big hearts.

Coach Jessica hopes to build her next year's team around some experienced volleyball players. The road to the future looks bright.

### Cross Country:

The Wildcat Harriers peaked at the right time running some of their best times at the MAAC Cross Country Championships on October 5th.

The Girls' Team finished a respectable 7th place out of 11 teams. Leading the way was Courtney Stuart in 19th place followed by Emmalyn Cushman in 20th place. Both finished with near school record times.

The Boys' Team was paced by Christopher Lee. He placed in the top 40 in the boys' race.

### Soccer:

*THE WILDCAT SOCCER TEAM WINS IT ALL! THEY FINISH THE SEASON UNDEFEATED!*

Our Soccer Team won the MAAC D2, Soccer Championship on October 6th. This capped an undefeated season (8-0-2) and brought home MWCDs first ever championship trophy. Well done boys and girls. This has been a stupendous season! *Please see the special report in this issue about the exciting game.*



## "Specials" Program: Featuring Elise Aronson, Art Instructor

Elise Aronson is our new art instructor at McGinnis Woods Country Day School. She has a Bachelor of Visual Arts from Georgia State University, and has taught art for seventeen years. One of Miss Elise's specialties is puppetry. She has taught and designed puppets at the Center for Puppetry Arts for eight years. As a believer in recycling, many of Miss Elise's sculptures are made from recycled vintage clock parts, computer elements, antique jewelry, and other recyclables.

Miss Elise enjoys integrating art with academics, and some student art projects will reflect this connection. Students will be given the opportunity to work with a wide variety of art media. Miss Elise emphasizes observation, memory, and imagination to develop creative skills. Students will be exposed to artists throughout history as well as learning about art work from other cultures. All of Miss Elise's lessons incorporate the widely recognized National Standards in Fine Arts. Her goal is to inspire all of her students with a passion for art.

Miss Elise is proud of her two grown children. Her daughter is a graphic designer in New York City and her son is in college at the University of West Georgia. Her daughter designed Miss Elise's website which can be found at <http://artbyelise.com>

In her spare time, Miss Elise enjoys creating sculptures from found objects, hiking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Miss Elise has written:

*"To all parents of the students at McGinnis Woods Country Day School - I want to express my gratitude and tell you how much I appreciate working with your children. I enjoy getting to know each one individually, helping and encouraging each one to grow artistically, and to appreciate art. My wish for them is to think creatively, and to see beauty and design everywhere. Additionally, I hope to inspire them to use their imaginations, as that is where true art begins."*



# PA Board Update

The last few weeks have been busy. We finished our Great American Fundraiser last week, and all the orders have been filled and distributed. The proceeds collected from this fundraiser will be used by our Specials Teachers to provide additional resources for their classrooms. As of October 17<sup>th</sup>, the total amount raised was \$3,756.46. We will update you with all the purchases made as soon as the Specials Teachers' grants are awarded.

The Fall Festival is coming fast. Our front office is crowded with the beautiful baskets that each of the grades have put together. We appreciate all the support and are thankful to all the parents that contributed items to make this raffle possible. Presale tickets are available until Friday afternoon (5 FREE tickets with every \$20 spent). You do not have to be present at the Fall Festival to win one of these incredible baskets. All the proceeds of these baskets will go back into the classrooms in the form of teacher grants. The Fall Festival promises to be a lot of fun, so please make sure to join us!

Our next PA Morning coffee is scheduled for Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. This is a great time to stop by, meet PA members and have any questions you might have answered. We look forward to seeing you then.

## Wildcat Soccer Team Wins Championship!

The Wildcat Soccer Team qualified for the play-offs with an undefeated 6-0-2 record. They played Howard School in the first round on Oct. 4. The Wildcat Team had little trouble with Howard whom they beat the week before, winning Round one with a 6-1 score.

Greenfield Hebrew Academy loomed ahead in the championship game since they had no trouble, either, in their round one game beating Brandon Hall 5-1. We all knew the final game would be a good one, as the Wildcats and Thunder tied (2-2) in a great game during the regular season.

The big game saw the Wildcats go down 2-0 early in the first half. This was rough going for a team that had never played catch up all season. With little time left in the half, the Wildcats scored with a Jason Lee boot, to get us a bit closer.

The second half was a wild one as the Wildcats inched back one goal at a time. The first goal of the half was scored by Ryan Field, it was the tying goal. The battle resumed with both teams getting scoring opportunities. Then it happened...

Kyle Partian, who had been a bit quiet in his playing so far in the game, erupted for the go ahead goal. There were only seven minutes to play in the game to hold off the Thunder for the win. The Wildcats hunkered down to be a defensive team the rest of the way.

All looked like the Wildcats could secure the win, when with 1:30 on the clock, the Thunder put in what looked to be the perfect cross to header! Did it go in? Would we be playing in overtime?

No! Sam Zoldock the Wildcat goalie, made a fantastic save! The Wildcats went on from there to secure the win for our first ever Championship. Final score: Wildcats 3, Thunder 2.





# A Little About our Teachers: Featuring the Kindergarten Team

McGinnis Woods has an amazing team of kindergarten teachers who enjoy each day with their young students. The teachers have varied interests and backgrounds, but work well together to provide a great education! Here is a bit about the members of this team.

Ms. Kammy Overacre and Ms. Abby Willis make up the KA Tigers. Ms. Kammy has been teaching for over thirteen years and has been at McGinnis Woods for eight years. While at McGinnis, she began working in the preschool, then Pre-K, and this year will be her fifth year teaching kindergarten. Ms. Kammy has found her calling with the kindergartners. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Louisiana State University and graduated from Mercer University with her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education in 2008. She has been married for three years and her beautiful daughter, Allison, is now two years old. Ms. Kammy believes each child is very special and can succeed in school. Her job is to figure out what works best for each individual student and teach them accordingly. She strives to ensure that every student meets his/her potential and has a positive kindergarten experience.

Ms. Abby Willis graduated from Kennesaw State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education. This is her first year at McGinnis Woods, and she is excited about teaching kindergarten. Currently, she lives in Kennesaw with her husband of two years and their ten month old daughter, Natalie. Outside of teaching, Ms. Abby enjoys teaching performing arts to young children including costume and set design. Additionally, she enjoys spending time with her family and curling up with a good book.

Ms. Noelle Boyd and Ms. Josie Feneck lead the KB Monkeys. This is Ms. Noelle's first year with McGinnis Woods Country Day School, but is her fifth year teaching kindergarten. She has always had a passion for teaching and working with children. Ms. Noelle is from a large family with six siblings and has many nieces and nephews. She also has a three year old son. Ms. Noelle feels she was lucky to be able to stay home with him for the past three years, but is also very excited to resume her teaching career. Ms. Noelle graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 2003. She has experience teaching special education pre-K as well as kindergarten.

Ms. Josie Feneck was born in Santiago, Chile, and moved to Atlanta when she was eight. This is her third year teaching at McGinnis Woods. She taught first grade for the past two years and is extremely excited to join the KB Monkeys. She has a Master's Degree from the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!) in Management of Non-Profit Organizations. She loves working with children, baking yummy treats, and hanging out with her husband, Nick, and their furry child, Bogey. Ms. Josie is full of enthusiasm and can't wait for all of the fun classroom adventures this year.



## Getting Involved: Volunteering at McGinnis Woods

*by Juli Frost*

You get what you give...I always tell my children you give a smile, you get a smile! McGinnis Woods Country Day School has kept my family smiling for eight years. What makes McGinnis Woods such a special place are the committed parents whose giving smiles and dedication make a difference for us all. There is an opportunity for everyone to share in our children's experience no matter how large or small. I encourage everyone to get involved and support our school.

I will never forget the excitement and proud feeling everyone had the year we raised money and installed the artificial turf on the playground! We have also shown our commitment has put laptops, whiteboards, flat screen monitors and special items in the classrooms to enrich our children's education. Regardless of one's financial circumstance, there are countless ways to get involved and make a difference. McGinnis Woods is my extended family where beautiful memories and friendships have been created, and fun times are always enjoyed.

I cannot imagine where my children and I would be after the loss of their daddy without the love, friendship and continued support of our family at McGinnis Woods. I am forever thankful and so blessed to be a part of such a special place. I encourage you to share in your child's education and create beautiful memories by getting involved.



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

Fall has arrived here in the preschool and we are excited about the many fall activities we have planned for the children. Our weekly themes this month include: Apples are Awesome, Fire Safety, In the Pumpkin Patch, Halloween Fun and Nocturnal Animals. The children are making many orange and black projects and creating things from triangles.

Nurse Penny has introduced a new component of the Organ Annie program which features fruits and vegetables each month. This month the foods are apples and winter squash. The children are enjoying learning all about these foods and are being encouraged to incorporate these healthy choices into their diets.

The preschoolers had their pictures taken at the end of September and they turned out great. Please be sure to hand in your proofs and orders. All orders should be delivered by the end of this month.



Halloween is in the air and there are two opportunities to celebrate the season at our school. Be sure to get your wristband for entrance on Saturday, October 22 from 3-6 when we will host the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Festival. This is the event of the season so, dress up the family and join us for the ever popular cake walk, pony rides, crafts, food, spider jump and much, much more. Also plan to join us on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for our Halloween parade and class parties at 3 p.m. All of our little goblins will be dressed to delight and deliver smiles! We look forward to seeing you at the festivities.



Each month we take a moment to recognize some of our amazing teachers. This month, Ms. Yara in 3B is our teacher of the month and Ms. Kerry and her little ones' class, Senior Toddler 1, have been chosen as Room of the Month. The preschool is a wonderful place to learn and grow, so stop by and experience the difference!

## Yogli Mogli Night

We had our first McGinnis Woods Night at Yogli Mogli on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. While it was a dark and rainy night, that did not put a damper on the frozen yogurt festivities happening inside. Thanks to everyone for coming out! Thanks also to the Rukkanagari family (Sanjna, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade CRABS) who own this location across from the Avenues.

Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> graders Sahyaja Munumala and Daniel Elkin for naming the winning McGinnis Woods flavor. It was called McGinnis Woods Dutch Creaminess and was a mixture of Cookies & Cream with Dutch Chocolate. The students were able to submit their own names of flavor combinations and voted on the winning flavor. A close second in the voting was Emma Sparrow with a short but sweet name of Awesome. Be sure to stop by Yogli Mogli for a little taste of self-serve frozen yogurt yumminess.





## Field Trip of the Month: Pre-K Students Enjoy the Kinsley Family Farm



With a clear blue sky and fall in bloom, the Pre-K students headed out for a memorable visit to the Kinsley Family Farm in North Georgia. The family operated working farm is known for beautiful pumpkin patches and Christmas trees that can be self cut. The students celebrated the fall harvest and enjoyed a variety of farm activities. The children took a hayride throughout the farm, fed the huge catfish and trout in the pond, fed the goats, and listened to a Halloween story. To top it off, everyone joined forces in planting a tree which includ-

ed digging the hole to watering it upon completion. Kinsey Farms is a beautiful setting and helped get everyone in the mood for fall and Halloween. Our old fashioned picnic on the farm grounds made the day one we will always remember!

## Classroom Spotlight: Middle Grades Science



The middle grades students have been having a great time exploring science in the first nine weeks. Ms. Rebecca has brought hands on activities into the classroom to help illustrate the science concepts in each grade level.

The 5th grade has been studying the classification system. We have a great collection of biology specimens in the classroom and students have been able to get an up-close look at the characteristics of the animals they are studying. Students started each class period with a new set of specimens and had to determine what they had in common before exploring the new Phylum of the day.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying rocks, minerals, soil and weathering. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade has made their own sedimentary rocks in class from glue and dirt in order to see the layers of soil in the rock. They also collected soil samples from their homes. Once the soil samples were brought into the classroom, students used a characteristics key and different activities to identify the type of soil that was in their yard.

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying biomes and ecosystems. While a field trip to the savanna is a tall order, students each picked a biome to research and created murals based on their findings. Their wonderful murals are hanging outside the science room for all to learn from.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying energy and forces. They had a great time with their centripetal force lab. Students took a bucket of water outside to the sport court and spun it in a circle at varying speeds. Depending on the speed and the gravitational and centripetal forces, the water never left the bucket!

It has been an exciting nine weeks in middle grades science. Students are looking forward to learning new concepts through engaging activities next quarter.



## Discovery Clubs

A new session of Discovery Clubs will be starting soon! The registration forms are due by Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. This session begins the week of October 31<sup>st</sup> and will run through December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Students may register for some of the former favorite clubs as well as additional new and exciting clubs including: Art Club, Holiday Baking and JiuJitsu/Judo along with cooking, tennis, Jr. Robotics and our Robotics team, Drama Club, Dance, cheerleading and Band Club.

In Drama Club this session only, Ms. Xylina will be casting for our Jungle Book performance that will take place in May. Be sure to get your registration in on time to take part in this production!



## Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated yearly to promote a drug free lifestyle. Students are taught about the importance of staying drug free and making positive healthy choices. Our theme this year is “Better Things To Do Than Drugs” being celebrated the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our celebration will include a week of spirit wear that highlights better ways that we can spend our time.

### Better Things To Do Than Drugs:

Monday: **Read:** Bring your favorite book and wear a red uniform shirt

Tuesday: **Be Silly:** Wear Silly Hair and Socks

Wednesday: **Play Sports:** Dress like an Athlete

Thursday: **Listen to Music:** Dress like a Rock Star

Friday: **Be Yourself:** Non-uniform Day

Help us celebrate being drug free and making healthy lifestyle choices.

## Junior Beta Club Update

The Jr. Beta Club has been off to a very busy start this school year. We have had the opportunity to help many people in the short time since school started. We began the year focusing on helping North Fulton Community Charities. We worked along with the Parent Association to host a September food drive. As a group, we were then given the privilege of travelling to North Fulton Community Charities to tour the facility and stock the shelves. We also partnered with the Parent Association to collect small wrapped toys to donate to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. These toys will be used to comfort children in need of a smile while visiting the hospital. This month the Jr. Beta Club is hosting a program we’ve called “Change for Change” to benefit The Place, a social services organization in Forsyth County. We hope to use the money we raise through “Change for Change” to support more members in need within our neighboring community.



## Library Update: Destiny Quest is Here!

We are pleased to announce our school library has a new catalog, Destiny Quest. The cool new interface will immediately grab students’ attention with its user friendliness and great features. In Destiny Quest, students can easily locate books and identify appropriate resources. Students are able to search by subject, title, author, and series all in the top search bar. Students may also search the best titles for their interests or reading levels.

