

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



October 2016 Volume 11, Issue 3



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## DATES TO REMEM-

10/ 31	Halloween Parties 5-8 Costume Contest
11/1	3rd Grade Trip to Atlanta History Center Picture Retakes by Sign up
11/2	Kindergarten Trip to Gwinnett Environ-mental and Heritage Center
11/3	Middle School Trip to Wasega 4-H
11/4	1st Grade Trip to Stone Mountain Pow Wow
11/7	No Classes GISA Conference After School Only
11/8	2nd Grade Trip to Legoland
11/9	New Student Open House
11/11	PreK Guest Speaker: Lee Bryan 4th Grade Trip to Tellus Museum
11/ 14-18	Scholastic Book Fair
11/ 20-25	Thanksgiving Holiday
11- 28-29	Holiday Shoppe

## 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.*

## The latest buzz . . .

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## A Message From Ms. Mary

October is such an exciting time of each school year as the students now know their class routines and individual learning expectations and a wonderful time of academic growth kicks in. The first set of report cards have been sent home and parent teacher conferences have further solidified the strong partnership we have between home and school. Thanks to the more than 97% of you who made it a priority to attend the conferences. We love sharing your students success and goals with you and take your questions about your child to heart and work to make each students learning as optimal as possible.



With the changing leaves and cooler weather the students have really enjoyed the Outdoor Classroom and the many surprises it holds along the path and near the creek. The teachers have enjoyed their partnership with Kevin Smith from Keep Forsyth Beautiful and the interesting research he has introduced the students to. He recently held a Frog Walk that many of our 2nd and 3rd graders participated in. We will be sure to keep you informed of more unique opportunities that will be hosted throughout the year.

We are hoping that you will join us tomorrow for our 16th Annual Fall Festival. The Festival will be held from 1:00pm – 4:00pm and will include: games, arts and crafts, pony rides, cotton candy, popcorn, hotdogs, a costume contest, spooky music by some of our chorus students, a haunted house and the Spider Bungee. Tickets will be available for \$10 per person at the gate. Also, you will not want to miss the amazing PA Raffle which has been a big hit with McGinnis the Money Turkey, Lego Mania, Lea, the American Girl of the Year and the Gift Card Wreath. Fun is in store for all, so be sure to join us for the Fall Festival. Happy Fall,

*Ms. Mary*

P.S. Please see Facebook for more pictures and happenings.

## Parent Association Update



October has been a wonderful and busy month for the McGinnis Woods family and it's not over yet!

Thanks to all who supported our first fundraiser of the year, Square One Art, and a very special thanks to Jessica Marro for coordinating it all! We saw a lot of adorable ornaments, sketch books, tote bags, and mugs featuring some precious artwork going home. We hope you are enjoying your little artists' masterpieces! The money raised by this fundraiser will be used to fund teacher grants so your purchases and support made a big difference!

Our Fall Festival Basket Raffle is well underway and our winners will be announced at the conclusion of Saturday's Fall Festival. We've got some fabulous prizes this year! McGinnis the Money Turkey is making his triumphant return with his feathers fluffed with the biggest cash prize yet:

\$500! Our Shop 'Til You Drop wreath is bursting with \$200 in retail gift cards. The Lego Mania

basket contains 9 different Lego sets and the American Girl basket gives you a chance to take home the Girl of the Year, Lea! The baskets are on display in the elementary school so come check them out! You can't win if you don't enter so be sure to purchase your raffle tickets if you haven't already! Pre-sales have been going on all week and we will be selling tickets at the Festival for \$1 per ticket. Remember you don't need to be present at the Festival to win but we'd sure love to see you there!

After Saturday's Festival don't forget our Tanner Photography event on Sunday, October 30th! Tanner Photography is once again partnering with McGinnis Woods to offer a portrait seating for \$20 which includes a free 16X20 family portrait. The best part of this fundraiser is that 100% of the money comes back to the school. Share your portraits with us at [pa@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:pa@mcginniswoods.org). We'd LOVE to see them!

Our Room Representatives have been busy planning some SPOOKTACULAR class parties to celebrate Halloween. The parties will be held during the school day on Monday, the 31st. Thanks to all of the families who've volunteered to assist in some way.

Whew! We told you October was busy and we are not slowing down for November! With Thanksgiving around the corner our minds are turning towards giving thanks and helping others. The PA Board is once again partnering with North Fulton Community Charities and adopting families for the holiday season. Please look for our trees later in November in the entrances of both the preschool and elementary schools decorated with ornaments indicating the wishes from families in need this holiday season. Please choose an ornament and help us make the holidays a little brighter for another family. It is a great opportunity to teach our children what philanthropy is all about!

November also brings with it the kick-off to our beloved Annual Holiday Shoppe! Our PA Board elves have partnered with Hallmark this year to bring you and your children a fabulous holiday shopping experience on Wednesday, November 30th, Thursday, December 1st and Friday, December 2nd. For those of you that are new to the school, the Secret Holiday Shoppe is a "store" set up for the students to purchase items on their own for family, friends, teachers and even themselves. Younger shoppers will have the guidance of a parent volunteer while they shop. The items purchased will be gift-wrapped for the children. The majority of the items in the shop are priced between \$5 and \$20. You will be able to guide your child's shopping by completing a shopping form indicating their budget and gift recipients. Each class will be assigned a time to shop during the school day. Parents are welcome to join us on our special preview night Wednesday, November 30th or may stop by during school hours on Thursday, December 1st and Friday, the 2nd. The Shoppe is both a fun and educational experience for the students, whether they observe a gift-giving December holiday or not and the McGinnis Woods PA will receive 25% of the sales proceeds.

As you can imagine, the Holiday Shoppe requires A LOT of volunteers to make it a success! We are looking for parents to assist with student shopping and gift wrapping. Keep your eyes out in your e-mail in the coming weeks for a Sign-Up Genius link and please consider giving an hour or two of your time towards helping out. We really can't do it without you! As an incentive, parent volunteers will receive a coupon for 20% off at Betsey's Hallmark at the Village at Flynn Crossing (in the Publix shopping center).

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving season! You can always reach us through our website [www.mcginniswoodspa.org](http://www.mcginniswoodspa.org). We'd love to hear from you!

## Preschool Corner

The preschool held its Annual Trike-A-Thon this past month and what an amazing success it was! The Trike-A-Thon is a fundraising event we participate in to support the efforts of the Saint Jude's Research Hospital. All of the proceeds from the event go directly to aid families with children battling cancer and other life threatening diseases being treated at the hospital.

Saint Jude's Research Hospital provides not only medical care to their patients but housing, food and much more to support the family members who have to travel from afar and stay with their loved ones during treatment. All care is provided to them free of cost! Families pay nothing while they are under the care of Saint Jude.

The hospital relies completely on the community to run its facility. So one way it raises money to treat patients is through the Trike-A-Thon. The day of the Trike-A-Thon, children bring in their favorite bike or scooter and ride them around the covered drop off lane and also on the sports court. Friends of the riders made banners and helped cheer on the riders. The participants loved riding for the After School children and many of their parents.

It was a great day for all and we are proud to announce that thanks to the generosity of our families we raised \$1,610.00. The money raised will provide either 3 days of oxygen, 5 chest x-rays or 1 day of chemotherapy. Over the years that we have conducted the Trike-a-Thons we have raised a total of \$12,251.27 which totals 8 days of chemotherapy for a patient. Thank you to all who participated in our amazing Trike-A-Thon.





## *Wildcat Chat Winter Sports Are About to Start 2016*



Our fall season has come to an end. Cross Country ended as we ran in the Championship race at Excel in Cartersville. Our runners, Bryn Milder, Nathanael Hazard, Emily Delk, and Joshua Wright all ended the season with their best times of the year at the Championship meet. Thank you Coach Lisa for running and coaching our runners this fall. Emily Delk was our only 8th grade XC runner and she will be missed next year.

Our volleyball team played their hearts out the last few matches of the season. Coach Sam and Coach Jenn worked our girls hard all season and their preparation really showed. We thank the coaches and players for all of their dedication and hard work. We are going to miss our 8th grade Wildcats: Madison Aber, Tayler Evangelista, Emma Guy, Tori Kershaw, Kaitlin Marro, and

Alberta Pagliotti.

Our soccer team improved the whole season as well. We were a young team playing against seasoned players. Our players played hard and had fun! Coach Roger and Coach Alden taught our players how to play as a team, as well as technical soccer skills. We appreciate our coaches for all their hard work as they share their passion for soccer! Thank you Coach Roger and Coach Alden for a great season! We will miss our 8th graders: Kate Poag, Joshua Chisolm, Madison Aber, Maggie Beguiristain, Emily Delk, and Tayler Evangelista.



We will begin our basketball season on Wednesday, November 2nd. The players and coaches will kick off the season by watching an inspirational movie "Mighty Macs" in the gym. Our first day of official practice on the court will be November 3rd. This season we are welcoming a new girls' head coach, Xavier Beguiristain. We are excited to have him coach our girls as he brings lots of experience and enthusiasm to our program. He will be assisted by Coach Robyn as she continues to coach and inspire our girls. Our returning boys' coach is Chason Smith. Chason will build on the skills and strategies he introduced last season and shape our young team. He has also been coaching basketball fundamentals to our younger Wildcats throughout the school year as he wants to develop a group of strong players. We are looking forward to a great Basketball season!



*Go Wildcats!*

## *Computer Lab Learning and Fun*



During computer lab specials, Pre-K and Kindergarten students have been learning how to use KidPix to type their name and to type one sentence about a variety of topics. This allowed students to practice their keyboarding skills. Students learned how to insert backgrounds and used mouse skills to color these backgrounds.

First and Second grade students have been learning how to use Microsoft Word to practice keyboarding skills and type sentences and insert pictures. Students have learned how to change fonts, colors and sizes. Second grade students have also started learning research skills by choosing a planet or solar system entity they wanted to research. Using their research students will create Power-Point presentations.



Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eight grade students have learned how to use Prezi to create presentations online. Students learned how to insert pictures, effects, and animations. Students in these grades also began creating videos using Animoto with their Project Showcase topics. Students are learning how to research topics, save pictures, insert pictures, music and animations.

## *Middle School Has Halloween Fun*

On October 31st, the middle school students have a Halloween costume contest. Students will be able to enter in one of four categories for judging: scariest, silliest, most creative, and best group costume. The middle school social committee will judge the event and ensure that fun is had by all. There will also be a best costume category which will be chosen from the 4 category winners. The suspense is real!

The social committee has also begun planning November and December socials. In November, there will be a "Just Dance" and electronics social. That will be held after school. Students may bring electronics during this time or join the group to enjoy a little dancing. December 4th marks the two year anniversary of the Middle School's ribbon cutting ceremony. To celebrate, the middle school will have a spirit day! Students may wear spirit shirts or any other green and yellow that they choose. Other surprises will also occur on the anniversary to mark another great year!



## *Halloween Health and Safety Tips*



Going trick-or-treating? Here are a few ways to stay safe and have a SAFE HALLOWEEN!

S- Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

A- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adults.

F- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

E- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.

H- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.

Always WALK and don't run from house to house.

A- Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

L- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

L- Lower your risk of serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

O- Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

W- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

E- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

E- Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses.

N- Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

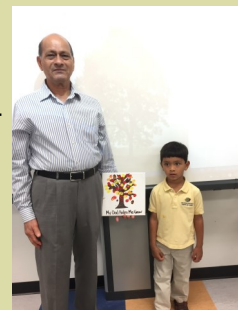
I hope everyone has a safe and healthy month.

Nurse Amy

## *Painting with Papa*



At McGinnis Woods we have always chosen October to honor our PreK Fathers. The theme for this annual event is ...My dad helps me grow. Our PreK students and their fathers or guest make a tree using their finger-prints. Breakfast is also served and special memories are made. All participants agree that the painting is fun, the breakfast tasty and that the pictures are priceless treasures!





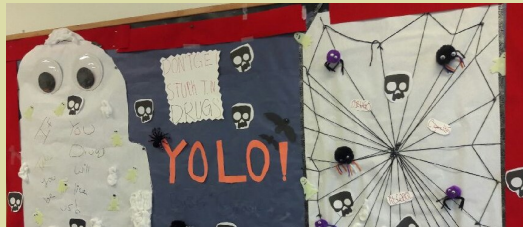
## *Student Council Officers Create a Special Red Ribbon Week*



During the week of October 24th we celebrated Red Ribbon Week. This week focused on educating our students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and medicines. The theme chosen this year was the national theme: YOLO - Be Drug Free.

Our student council officers planned an exciting week that included theme days, a bulletin board decorating contest, and a class trivia quiz. Students learned many new facts about how to stay safe and healthy and how to resist peer pressure. The students also enjoyed a Chic-Fil-A order in day which always is a hit!

The winners of the contests will be announced on Halloween and classes will be able to choose class prizes at that time.



## *Beta Club Students Visit Dogwood Forest Nursing Home*

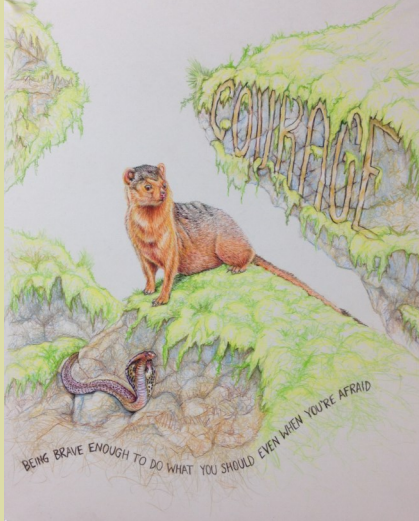


This month was a busy one for the Jr. Beta Club. The students supporting Furkids held an ice cream fundraiser to support the animals. We will be visiting the shelter next month and presenting them with a check for \$100. Students will also help out around the shelter and caring for the dogs.

Several other students stopped by Dogwood Forest Assisted Living Facility to visit with residents. The students "reverse trick or treated" and went door to door giving treats to the residents. They were greeted with happy smiles and many thanks as they brightened everyone's day. The students also hosted a game of BINGO which is always a favorite pastime. It really was a wonderful afternoon for all.



## *Our word of the Month: Courage*



This month's Chick-fil-A word of the month is Courage. The students are learning that courage is defined as “being brave enough to do what you should even when you're afraid.” Inspirational quotes and discussion starters were shared each day on the announcements encouraging the development of this character trait.

The following is an excerpt from one of the announcements “ Many occupations are hazardous or dangerous and require a special type of person to do that job. Doctors have to have courage when they give us prescriptions or do surgery to try to make us well. Teachers have courage when they try something new in the classroom and when they go the extra mile to help a student learn. Lots of people in your life have courage...say thank you to one of them today.”

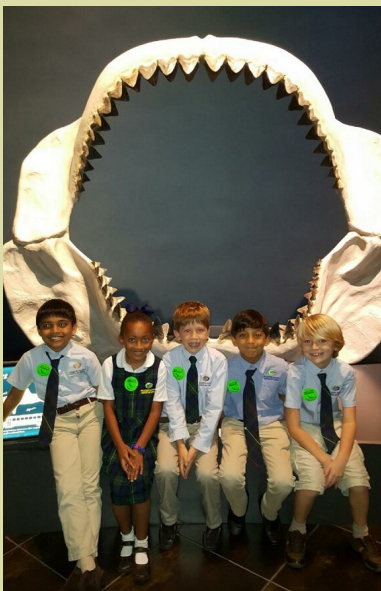
Students displaying courage were awarded with a Chick-fil-A coupon on the morning announcements this past week.

## *Third Graders Visit the Tellus Museum*

The 3rd Graders headed to the Tellus Science Museum this month to kick off their unit on Fossils. They had an amazing time as they learned about the different types of fossils (cast, mold, trace) and created their own fossil imprints.

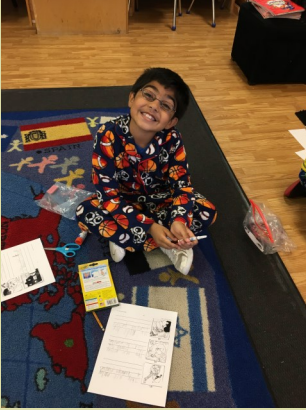
The highlight of the trip was when the students actually dug for their own fossils and uncovered a HUGE dinosaur! They even got to keep the small fossils that they found.

They have continued to learn about fossils while in the classroom through hands on experiences using pasta, clay and playdough. Students have also read information about how fossils are formed and how they often hold the mysteries of the past.





## 2nd Grade Pumpkin Day!



Pumpkin Day was a success in the Second Grade classrooms on Wednesday! The students were very excited and went straight to work on creating Pumpkin Day folders and gathering supplies to travel through centers with each of the four team teachers!

The first center was led by Ms. Kim. Students measured the weight, height and circumference of each of the pumpkins that were donated. After they determined the winners in each of the three categories, they read the story *The Biggest Pumpkin Ever*.

The next center was with Ms. Katharine. She and the students read the story, *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* They then strategized how to count and add up the many pumpkin seeds in the pumpkins. The students proceeded to carve their pump-

kins and count their seeds. The four pumpkins, which were all the same size, ranged from 206 seeds to 610 seeds! WOW!

In the third center, Ms. Christina and the students read some pumpkin poems and a fun story called, *The Runaway Pumpkin*. After they read, they created original pumpkin poems and stories which they recorded in a pumpkin shaped book. Our fourth and final center was led by Ms. Missy. She read them a book titled, *The Life Cycle of a Pumpkin*. Their final task was to write about the life cycle of a pumpkin and work with proper sequencing as they put the steps to create a Jack o'lantern in order.



The second graders had so much fun and were so thankful for the volunteers who donated pumpkins to make their day such a success.



## *New Discovery Clubs on the Way*



The first of the discovery club sessions ended in October and the students had a great time participating in a wide variety of clubs. The next session will begin on Tuesday, November 1st for clubs offered on Tuesday through Fridays. The Monday clubs will begin on November 14th.

This session we are once again offering Basketball, Cheer, Chess, Cooking, Dance, Drama, Jr. robotics, STEM, Morning Band Practice Club, and our Wildcats Robotics team for students to compete against other schools.

New clubs offered this session include Video Game Coding, as well as, Arts & Crafts. This session will go until school is out in December. We are excited about all of the wonderful activities the students have the opportunity to participate in this year!



## *Parents Night Out, November 11*

Have you been thinking that you would like some time to catch up on errands, read a great book, or spend some time with your special someone? Well you are in luck! The next Parent's Night Out is scheduled for Friday, November 11th, from 5:45 pm-9:30 pm. Kids can stay at school to play and have fun, while parents get to go out!

Ms. Jenn and Ms. Wendy are planning on an "ocean of fun" creating fishy crafts and swimmingly fun games all planned around theme. We will wrap up the evening by watching the movie *Finding Dory*. Dinner will be provided along with a special dessert, and children may wear their pajamas and bring blankets and sleeping bags. This is a great time for your child to have a playdate with friends! Information is coming home soon.





## *STEM Time in the Library*



Remember those three R's Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic? Now those three R's have evolved to include STEM. STEM is an acronym where each letter stands for a certain subject. The S stands for Science, T for Technology, E for Engineering and M for Math.

McGinnis Woods strives to expose and experiment with everything STEM. Whether inside or outside our school campus students are engaged with activities in their classrooms, the STEM lab, outside in our outdoor classroom and also in specials classes.

This past week our Second graders participated in activities during their scheduled library class time. Students were learning about Space and more specifically the sun, moon and stars.



The class began by discussing what students had learned in class and expanded to introduce new information. Students learned about the training astronauts endure what types of food they eat and even learned one of our own McGinnis Woods teachers; Ms. Kim attended Space Camp a few years ago.



Students were very excited to test out robots on the Space Maze, wrap their minds around Space Math, learn scientific facts about Space, examine space rocks and sand with microscopes and build a space mobile to protect all of the expensive and needed space equipment.



Students rotated between different activities and were enjoying themselves so much they didn't want to go to recess. It's so exciting to see students being inspired with the passion to excel. When you're in the school hallways take a peek inside one of our classrooms. You'll see the spark being ignited!





## Pictures from Around the School

