

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



April 2014 Volume 9, Issue 3



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## ***The latest buzz . . .***

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

04/26- 05/02	Scholastic Book Fair
05/09	Mother's Day Celebra- tions
05/13	Careers on Wheels for Pre-K-2nd Grade
05/13	Chorus Concert at Lord of Life 6:00 p.m.
05/15	STEM/Career Day
05/15	Band Concert at Lord of life 6:00 p.m.
05/16	Scene on the Green 6:30 p.m.
05/19	5th-8th Field Day "Game on" at Fowler Park
05/20	Yearbook Signing
05/21	PreK-4th Field Day
05/22	Awards Day 9:30 p.m.
05/23	Last Day of School

## **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.*

## **A Message From Ms. Mary**

These have been very busy, exciting days. This issue of the McGinnis Woods Buzz is packed with valuable information regarding some of the most noteworthy events. Our recent production of Annie Jr at the Dancing Goat theatre received rave reviews from the many families and friends who packed each of the sold out shows. The gym/ middle school building is really taking shape and morphing into a great new space with each passing day, and our Stanford 10 testing week has gone quite smoothly. Our students have been very focused and serious about doing their best work. We will complete make-up tests for students who missed tests due to illness on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

It is crazy to think that April is almost over and May, the last month of school, is upon us. My how this year has flown by! We are looking forward to many more special times that we will share before this school year comes to a wrap. Students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades are anticipating the many overnight trips that are planned for May. We are really pleased with the trip to Washington, DC that has been planned in conjunction with the Close Up Foundation for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Be sure to read more about this inaugural trip, which we hope will become a tradition for future 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We work to add new clubs, activities and opportunities each year targeted to make our students' experience exceptional. If you have any great ideas, please be sure to pass them on to our Parent Association Board members or a member of Administration so that they can be considered.

We are still accepting registration for this summer's "Sun"sational Summer Camp. We have great themes, activities, crafts, weekly trips, and water fun planned for campers. Exciting specialty camps are also being offered. The Frozen Drama Camp is already filled, but there are many other great ones to choose from including golf, football with Mr. Josh, gymnastics, swimming and select academic camps, too. Your child can enjoy a week or the entire summer, so sign up today!

We hope to see you at the Spring Carnival this Saturday, April 26th from 12:00-3:00 p.m. This is always a great way to get to know other members of our school community, enjoy a spring day, and have fun with your own family while playing games, making crafts, riding ponies and trains, and enjoying lunch.

Happy Spring,  
**Ms. Mary**



## Wildcat Chat

This year our Wildcats Track and Field Teams were strong, fast and had endurance! We had 28 Wildcats out for track and field. We traveled to Fowler Park and practiced on a track three days a week. We attended seven track and field meets including finals at the Galloway Athletic Complex. Our Coaches this season were Ms. Lyndsey, Ms. Sonia, Ms. Robyn and Coach Croom.

Each of our athletes worked hard and improved on their running and field events. We had many runners, throwers, and jumpers break school records! Congratulations to Madison Aber, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, who broke the school record in the two mile run with a time of 14:44. We also wish to congratulate Teema Yassine who broke the school record this season not only in the discus but also in the shot put. Teema threw the discus 62'2 and the shot put 18'10. Way to go Teema!

Our girls' team did very well in the finals. Out of thirteen teams, they came in eighth place. The majority of our team are young fifth graders, who are full of potential! We cannot wait to see what they will be capable of by eighth grade. Here are a few of the highlights when Wildcats stood on the podium during finals to receive medals or ribbons. Maddie Moore placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the high jump with a jump of 4'5 (she holds the school record). In the shot put, Teema Yassine placed third and Gabby Scott placed sixth. In the discus Teema placed second with a throw of 52'11. Madeline Aber placed fourth in the 3200.



McGinnis Woods did a great job overall! Next year we look forward to breaking our own personal records as well as more school records! We are going to miss our eighth graders; Gabby Scott, Maddie Moore, Christina Park, and Teema Yassine. They each were a huge asset to our team both on and off the field. We wish them the best as they head to high school.

In addition, we are extremely excited about the new gym that is currently under construction. We look forward to the additional opportunities we will have for practices and to host meets and games on campus. The year will kick off with fall sports including Cross Country,

## It's Carnival Time!

It's Carnival Time! Each year, McGinnis Woods families come together to enjoy an afternoon of carnival fun, filled with games, crafts, food and activities for all ages. The Spring Carnival is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Presale carnival admissions wristbands which include entry to the event, food and most rides are priced at \$7.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children. Children under 2 are free. This year we have added a photo booth so everyone can dress up with silly props and then pose. The camera will capture some great memories of the day!

It is always wonderful to see our little ones riding on the ponies, families enjoying a train ride together, and our bigger carnival-goers flying high on the bungee jump! Not to mention, the fun of seeing crazy face painting and colorful hair spread out across the playground.

Come and spend the afternoon with us or just stop by for lunch and a few activities. Don't forget to take advantage of the presale admissions prices. We can't wait to see you at the Carnival!



## *Sawnee Women's Club Art Show Winners Announced*

McGinnis Woods has participated in the Sawnee Women's Club Art Contest for the past 4 years. Kindergarten through fifth graders participated in the contest again this year. The theme was "City of the Future", and each student did a fantastic job on the entries.

We are very proud to announce that Fourth Grader Anika Parvataneni was a County Grade level winner! She will receive a certificate, ribbon, and a twenty-five dollar cash award. Honorable Mention Winners were Fifth Grader, Rishil Kondapaneni and Third Grader, Riya Sheth. Additionally, the grade level winners for our school were Kindergartener, Hasini Chinthala, First Grader, Lane Fowler, Second Grader, Aiden Nguyen, Third Grader, Yashi Surapaneni and Fifth Grader, Akshitha Surapaneni. Each of the winners will receive certificates.

An art reception will be held, Thursday, April 24th from 5:30-8:30 at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at the Collection in Cumming. Light refreshments will be served, and all are welcome to attend. After the art reception, the artwork of the students who won will be displayed at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at The Collection for one year.

*Congratulations to each of these students for their artistic contributions to the show and to our school!*



On May 15<sup>th</sup>, McGinnis Woods is having our inaugural STEM event. We are so excited to provide a whole day of activities, demonstrations, and guest speakers which will integrate instruction in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will rotate through many STEM activities lead by our amazing staff including making an air powered car, creating a marble run out of toilet paper rolls and dissecting old computers to see how they were created and designed.

Why STEM? The demand for skilled workers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) is closely linked to global competitiveness. Technology is pervasive in almost every aspect of daily life, and as the workplace changes, STEM knowledge and skills grow in importance for a variety of workers (not just for mathematicians and scientists). As educators and parents we should be teaching students the relevance of STEM in everyday life, and encouraging our children to explore STEM fields and career opportunities.

To make this event memorable for all, we need your help! If you hold a job in a STEM field (engineers, architects, medical fields and robotics to name a few) or know someone who does, please be sure to fill out and return the flyer we recently sent home. We are also in need of recyclable items such as toilet and paper towel rolls, empty water bottles, newspapers, shoeboxes, bubble wrap, old computers, old phones, or any old electrical appliances that you are willing to have dissected. Games and toys such as Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, Legos (big or small), Jenga, or engineering/science kits are also needed and will be returned.

*We can't wait to make this STEM Day an event our students will never forget; one that will inspire and stretch their imaginations and dreams for the future.*



## Grade Level Feature

The Kindergarten Team at McGinnis Woods is comprised of two lead teachers, Ms. Lyndsey and Ms. Kammy as well as two assistant teachers, Ms. Kelli and Ms. Kyra. This team works together to provide hands-on and creative lessons to keep their young students engaged and eager to learn.

Ms. Lyndsey Boden is the lead teacher in the Kindergarten Giraffes room. This is her second year as a lead teacher at McGinnis Woods Country Day School. She received her Bachelors of Science in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Kennesaw State University in 2010. Along with her Bachelors degree, she has received her Special Education certification. She believes in using hands-on and minds-on activities to fully engage her students.

Ms. Kelli Arnold, assistant in the Giraffes room, brings over ten years of classroom experience as a certified K-8 teacher. Her career has featured students in a wide range of very diverse cultures; including 7 years of 1st grade in the Highland Park section of Los Angeles, where Spanish is the primary language; and 5th grade in Detroit, Michigan. Since moving to Georgia, she has taught Kindergarten and 2nd - 3rd grades at other private schools. Kelli is an honors graduate of the University of Michigan in elementary education, as well as trained in ESL at Cal State LA.

Kammy Overacre is the lead teacher in the Kindergarten Tigers room. She has been at McGinnis Woods since 2004. Kammy earned her undergraduate degree from LSU. *Geaux Tigers!* In 2008, she graduated from Mercer with her Masters in Early Childhood Education. Kammy has been happily married now for 5 years and has 2 beautiful daughters! She believes each child is very special and can succeed in school. She also believes her job is to figure what works best for each individual student and teach them accordingly.

Kyra Ingram is new to McGinnis Woods this year. She is from Alpharetta and has lived here for 15 years. After high school, Kyra attended the University of West Georgia where she earned her Bachelor's of Science in Education. She loves teaching, the color blue, and spending her free time reading books. Kyra's favorite sports teams are the Atlanta Braves, the Georgia Bulldogs, and now the McGinnis Woods Wildcats!



## New Building

It is exciting watching the progress on the Gym/Middle School building being erected at the school. Last week was particularly thrilling watching the framing being put up and the space take on a recognizable form. This much needed space will provide our students with additional classrooms, a lab, a stage, concession stands, locker rooms and more room to grow.

Despite the rainy weather this spring, we are still on track to move into the building mid-summer. Our Parent Association Board is working closely with the school to identify areas in need of additional funds to make our new space not only functional but exceptional!





## *Specials Teachers Highlights*

Jacki Reid Freeman has been at McGinnis Woods since 2001. She is originally from Augusta, GA (home of the Master's golf tournament). Ms. Jacki has twin girls who attend McGinnis Woods. Kristen and Marian have attended McGinnis Woods since they were 5 months old and are now third graders! One of Ms. Jacki's favorite places at our school is the library! That's no surprise. She believes that reading is one of most enjoyable aspects of life, as is helping students find the perfect book. Currently, she is finishing her master's degree in Library Sciences from the University of West Georgia. McGinnis Woods is her family's home away from home and she loves being here!

Kristen Craig has been working at McGinnis Woods since 2011. This is also her 15<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. Ms. Kristen works with students providing enrichment and/or academic support with students both individually and in small groups. She loves working with students and watching their academic growth from year to year. Each day Ms. Kristen works to meet the individual needs and learning styles of her students, along with helping them reach their fullest potential.

Ms. Kristen has called Atlanta home for the last 20 years. She graduated from University of Alabama (Roll Tide!) where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Ms. Kristen is also an Orton-Gillingham tutor and uses her Orton-Gillingham training to provide support for her students.

Ms. Kristen currently lives in Suwanee with her family. They moved here three years ago from Buckhead. Both of her children attend McGinnis Woods. Her son, Houston, is in Pre-K5 and her daughter, Calista,

## *Stanford 10 Testing*

This week has been set aside for our annual Stanford 10 testing. We have chosen to use the Stanford Achievement Test for the past 11 years. It's the oldest and most widely used nation-wide standardized tests, which include ITBS and CAT. The test was chosen since it is a nationally recognized research-based, norm referenced achievement test. It is comprehensive and aligned with national curriculum standards for reading, language, math, social studies and science. The Stanford 10 provides us with an idea of how our students are scoring in comparison to students throughout the entire country.

As you know, at McGinnis Woods, we do not spend time "teaching to a test," or even spend much time practicing how to take standardized tests. This may place our youngest students at a bit of a disadvantage, but we feel our time is best spent teaching our curriculum in a hand-on, minds-on way to teach our students how to think and learn for life. Stanford tests are not aligned to our curriculum in the way that the CRCT is aligned to the Georgia Performance Standards, but the student data that we glean from the tests is very useful to our classroom instruction.

Standardized testing is one useful tool we use to further assess the school's programs as well as individual student performance. Stanford 10 provides us with a snapshot of a student's knowledge on a given day and is not an accurate assessment to use to evaluate an entire program or teacher, but rather as an indicator of student ability, especially when compared to tests from past years. One way that we use the test data is to identify holes in our schools curriculum or to find areas that we can further extend learning because our students have mastered the material covered on the test.

Next week, we will take Monday and Tuesday to complete make-up tests for students who missed school and testing due to illness. We plan to send the tests for scoring by Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> so that the tests results will be returned to us before the final day of school. The results will be sent home to parents as soon as we receive them. During Post planning, days that our teachers wrap up one year and plan for the next, we will use tests results by grade levels to determine curricular areas of need and strength in order to create SMART Goals for next year's classes.

## *Pa Updates*

The year is flying by-there is only one more month of school left! April was another busy month, although May promises to be even busier.

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, our Parent Association is always looking for volunteers! Our Parent Association Board (all volunteer positions), along with numerous other volunteers from the Pre-K thru 8th Grade classrooms, organize and execute numerous fundraising opportunities, social functions and charitable projects. Without these volunteers the events and projects are simply impossible to attempt. Many of the benefits of these volunteer hours can be seen throughout the school and in each classroom; consider the broadcast system, sports court, or the Promethean projectors. Some of the benefits, for example, charity work and our social events are harder to see, but no less important. These volunteers have made a conscious choice to make a difference in the McGinnis Woods community.

As the school year is coming to a close, the PA Board is already looking to next year. If you would like to become more involved in impacting the McGinnis Woods community through volunteering, please contact us at [pa@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:pa@mcginniswoods.org) Depending on your availability, time commitment, and talents, we have something for you! Get involved and help us make next year even better!

### **SQUARE ONE ART**

We are currently running our Square One Art fundraising program. Your child's artwork has come home with a personalized catalogue. Please take some time to look for keepsakes, Mother's Day, Father's Day or Grandparent's Day gifts. The kids worked really hard on their artwork and would love to show it off. You may order through the catalogue, online or by phone at (888) 332-3294. If you need the access code for your child's artwork, please contact us at [pa@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:pa@mcginniswoods.org) with your child's name and class.

We have paired with Square One Art for many different reasons. Fundraising is important to our school, but we also look to filling a need at the same time. Many parents have let us know that this is their "favorite" fundraising opportunity, especially around Mother's Day & Father's Day. All the artwork will be back before both holidays. The children love creating the art knowing that parents will have an opportunity to purchase something that will display it. Square One Art is a local company, based in Norcross, who hires locally and fulfills all our orders in house. Supporting our local community is very important; a great way to do this is to support our fundraising efforts and have a quality keepsake or gift.

### **BREAKFAST WITH DAD**

Thank you to all of the volunteers who got up early and made breakfast for all of our children and their Dads. We had a great turnout last week and the breakfast was a huge success! A special thanks to Chris & Dawn Beisner for coordinating the breakfast. We appreciate them and all of our Dads!

*Check out: [paboard@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:paboard@mcginniswoods.org)*

## *Pa Updates Continued*

### **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

Teacher Appreciation Week was a weeklong celebration thanking our teachers for all they do. Our children spend a large part of their life at the school with these amazing teachers. We are so glad that they are a part of our McGinnis Woods community. We had many parent volunteers on hand to help in different ways: from decorating the front hallway, delivering treats and setting up the luncheon that wrapped up the week-your help was much appreciated! Thank you!

One of the big events for Teacher Appreciation Week was the Teacher Raffle. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. All proceeds from the ticket raffle purchased these fabulous gift cards. Below you will find this year's raffle winners.

\$10 Coldstone Gift card	Ms. Wendy
\$10 Coldstone Gift card	Ms. Kyra
\$10 Coldstone Gift card	Ms. Sam
\$10 Coldstone Gift card	Ms. Kristen
\$25 Target Gift card	Ms. Nicole
\$25 Movie Gift card	Ms. Kim
\$25 QT Gift card	Ms. Griffin
\$25 Movie Gift card	Mr. Bryan
\$25 QT Gift card	Ms. Valorie
\$50 Target Gift card	Ms. Heather
2 Braves Tickets	Ms. Robyn
\$50 Target Gift card	Ms. Kayla
\$50 QT Gift card	Ms. Sonia
\$50 Honey Baked Ham Gift card	Ms. Lyndsey
\$50 QT Gift card	Ms. Pam
\$50 QT Gift card	Ms. Kelli
McCormick& Schmick's \$100 Gift card	Mr. Josh
\$100 Visa Gift card	Ms. CeCe
GRAND PRIZE \$300 at Legacy Lodge	Ms. Ruth, purchased by Sydney Woods

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **Scene on the Green – 5/16/2014**



## *Bandtastic!*

Bandtastic 2014 took place on March 22, 2014, at Sandy Plains Baptist Church. Over 60 band students from the Atlanta area participated. McGinnis Woods' students Christina Parks, flute, and Molly Hamann, trumpet, played in the Symphonic Band, and Nicky Leonard, alto sax, played in the Concert Band. Both groups practiced and rehearsed for about 5 hours, and then they performed a concert! These McGinnis Woods' students have some great musical talent!



## *Welcome New Staff*



McGinnis Woods recently hired additional staff. We are very excited about the enthusiasm, knowledge, and expertise that these new members bring to our program. Kristin Roach is in the Pre-K Bugs' room. She has an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Gainesville State College, and is a few courses away from graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Education in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> from Georgia State University. She has worked as a victim advocate and a child forensic interviewer for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office. She has also been a Kindergarten Assistant Teacher in the past.

Ms. Kristin is married, has two teenage sons, and a Redbone Coon Hound. She enjoys hiking, camping, reading, swimming, painting, and spending time with her family.

Laura Woolbright, originally from Long Island, New York, is in the First Grade Falcons' room. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Early Childhood Education from St. Joseph's College, and is certified to teach in New York and Georgia. She has worked in private and public schools for nine and a half years. Ms. Laura is married and has three children, Daniel (20), Tyler, (17), and Riley (13). In her spare time, she enjoys arts & crafts, and spending time with her husband. Her son Tyler is a basketball player so she spends a lot of time on the court.

Carey Stachler is in the Fourth Grade Suns' room. She has a Bachelor's Degree in English from Georgia College and State University. She has experience working in a second grade classroom. During her spare time, she enjoys going out to eat, watching movies, camping, reading, dancing, and spending time with her family and friends.

Tye Hayes is in the Fourth Grade Meteors' room. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Communications from the University of Idaho and an Associate's Degree in Recreation Technology from Northwest Florida State College. While in college, Mr. Tye played basketball for the University of Idaho, and has played basketball professionally. He is engaged to be married to Danii, and has two children Zynia (14) and Isis (9). In his spare time, Mr. Tye enjoys chess, mentoring, basketball, football, running, reading, coaching, and teaching students how to be good teammates.

It takes a wonderful team of dedicated educators to keep our very active school running smoothly and with excellence. If you have not met these new staff members, please do so today!



## Overnight Trips

McGinnis Woods has a long tradition of enhancing the classroom curriculum through wonderful overnight trips to locations near and far. These trips are carefully designed to spark the students' imaginations and provide them with unique opportunities which they cannot have anywhere else!

Each year the **first graders** and their parents spend a special night at Zoo Atlanta. This year's trip is planned for May 1-2. The program includes a behind the scenes tour of the food prep areas, hands-on visits with some small animals, and a guided tour in the morning before the zoo opens!

**Second graders** and their parents take a trip to DeSoto Caverns in Childersburg, Alabama. This year the trip is scheduled on May 8-9. The focus of the trip is to learn about cave habitats, take a cave tour, and learn about the amazing history of this particular cave. Finally, all participants sleep in the cave overnight under the stalactites. The students also participate in various water activities, battle each other on wooden towers, pan for gems, and enjoy a family cookout.

**Third graders** will sleep among some strange looking and playful river water creatures at the Tennessee Aquarium during their Sleep in the Deep Program on May 8-9. They will also get a private tour of the aquarium and participate in animal encounters. They will start their adventure with a trip to Lookout Mountain where they will ride the Incline Railway to the top of the mountain and learn about various aspects of the Civil War, as they take in breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

**Fourth graders** travel to Nature's Classroom in Mentone, Alabama each year to experience and learn team-building skills. The students participate in many activities like building a bridge using rope, cooking in the outdoors, starting a fire, participating in an Underground Railroad simulation, and learning techniques about surviving in the outdoors. The students will enjoy their adventure April 29-May 2, 2014.

**Fifth through seventh graders** will travel to the USS Yorktown at Patriot's Point, SC on May 5-7. The USS Yorktown, an aircraft carrier turned living museum for school and group stays, will be a unique home away from home for the students as they sleep on the aircraft carrier as the sailors did and eat in the officers' mess hall. Students will also tour the ship as part of a scavenger hunt, participate in a marine science program, and learn about the history of the ship. While on site, students will also get to explore the Vietnam Naval support base, the Submarine CLAMAGORE and destroyer LAFHEY. They will also take a ferry to historic Fort Sumter, where the first shots were fired signaling the start of the Civil War.

**We are very excited that our Eighth graders** will be flying to Washington D.C. on May 4-7 to participate in a jam-packed four day program specially designed for middle school students. They will visit over twenty museums and attractions, interact with other middle school students from around the country, and explore the links between our nation's history and the rights and responsibilities of citizens today. This is sure to be a memory making trip that will broaden our student's thinking and cap off their middle school careers!

## Field Day 2014

Field Day for the PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grades will be held Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The theme for the day's events is Dr. Seuss. Our Middle School students will have their own Field Day on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Fowler Park based on a "Game On" theme. We look forward to ending the school year with a lot of fun while we play games and compete with our self and our friends. If you are interested in volunteering for the day, please let Coach Croom know, and she will put you to work.



## *Sunsational Summer Camp Starts Soon!*

Come join us this summer for Summer Camp! There will be great field trips at this "Sun"sational Summer Camp. Some of the amazing trip are planned to Treetop Quest, horseback riding, tubing, museums, movies, gardens, bowling and Sky Zone. We have many exciting specialty camps happening such as drama, art, robotics, swimming lessons, cooking, Spanish, gymnastics, math, golf, and tennis, as well as, academic camps. Students may sign up for one week up to all 11 weeks. Camp hours are 9:00-5:00 p.m., with before and after camp care available if needed. There will also be scheduled daily activities such as art, computers, games, water play, nature hikes and more! Do not miss out on the fun. Sign up today!



## *Discovery Clubs*

Our last session of discovery clubs ended the week of April 21st. We had many great clubs this year including Band, Chess, Cheerleading, Cooking, Drama, Etiquette, Jr. Robotics, Robotics team, and Super Science.

Next year will have some of the same clubs as well as new clubs. One of the new clubs will be STEM Club. STEM Club will foster the student's interest, knowledge and exposure to the many opportunities available to them in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in a fun and supportive learning environment through hands-on activities and demonstrations.



It's book fair time! Our Scholastic book fair arrives this week and is sure get everyone excited about reading. Our spring book fair premieres at the Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and will run until Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The theme for this book fair is "Book Fair Fiesta!" There are also some exciting activities planned for the week.

On Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, students and teachers have a book fair preview day. Students will create their own wish lists and teachers will create classroom wish lists, too. On Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> parents are invited to come out to our Pastries for Parents. We are welcoming parents to stop in, peruse the fair, pick up a few books and enjoy a pastry! On display at the book fair will be the required Summer Reading books for PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Parents and students will

be able to view the required books and purchase some additional ones to read over the summer.

We are looking forward to a week filled with fiesta fun! Be sure to stop in the library from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and check out the fabulous selection of books, educational activities, science kits and more at our book fair!



## *Jr. Beta Update*

The Jr. Beta Club is working hard to continue our support of our student chosen charities. The *12X12 Love Project* received our donation and is slated to begin building the house and bathroom for our sponsored family on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be sending picture updates that we will pass on. If you would like to see our family, please visit <http://1212loveproject.org/stories-a-updates/3-families-in-need/191-lobos-perez>. Thank you again for your support. This was truly a community effort!

Our Jr. Beta Club students also participated in Denim 4 Dogs. Denim 4 Dogs was a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Forsyth County. All proceeds were donated to the Humane Society and would benefit numerous animals at the shelter.

The students are always coordinating events and working on various projects. The group working for *The Place* of Forsyth County is planning a shoe drive for them in May. Start checking those closets now. The *McGinnis Woods school group* held a bake sale on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The proceeds raised from the bake sale will be used to order plants and other items to beautify our outdoor classroom. The student *CURE* group is busy planning as well. Those students are advertising Lauren's Run. This 5K run is for children and adults and is sponsored by CURE. All proceeds raised benefit childhood cancer research and also help local families with children undergoing cancer treatment.

## *Word of the Month*

This month's Chick-fil-A word of the month is Humility. The students are learning that humility is defined as *putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve*. Students have been learning the meaning of Humility throughout the month during morning announcements. Teachers are constantly on the lookout for exceptional students showing humility throughout the day. These special students will be rewarded with special Chick-fil-A coupons at next month's Pep Rally!



## Earth Day!



Earth Day was Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>! Students gained wonderful insight on how they can become an environmentalist. They read books, including *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, *Trash! Trash! Trash!* by Shelly Nielsen, and *Ready, Freddy Save the Earth* by Abby Klein. The school hallways have been lined with globes. Many of these globes have stories attached, where students have written about ways they can save the earth, or they have Earth Day slogans like “Don’t Polute!” Some students have even written persuasive essays, where they tried to persuade their reader to reuse, reduce, and recycle. Students are even participating in an Earth Day challenge at home!

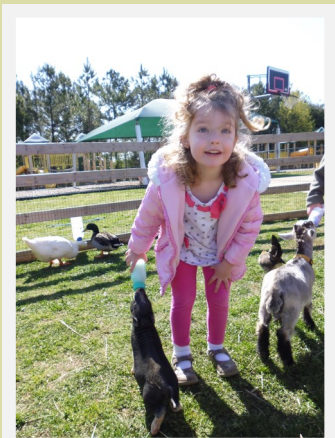
On Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Reaping Nature Productions held a presentation, where students learned different ways to care for their natural environment. Reaping Nature Productions stated, “Educating others to care for issues impacting our environment, such as resource depletion, recycling and water/energy conservation, is an investment for all of us.” In addition to Reaping Nature Production’s presentation, our school implemented a no paper day! Classrooms all over McGinnis Woods worked in centers, outside in nature, and used technology for the entire day.



## Careers on Wheels Day

We are excited to share that the students in grades PK through 2nd will have the opportunity to visit with some community helpers during the month of May. One of these visits will be from the Forsyth County Fire Department on May 13th. They are bringing their truck and will talk to the kids about their jobs, their equipment, and how to stay safe. Other community helpers we plan to host include the police and paramedics. The kids are sure to enjoy these visits.

## Preschool Corner



McGinnis Woods Preschool is NAEYC(National Association for Education of Young Children) accredited and our teachers work hard to maintain a high standard of teaching. Our daily curriculum centers around language and literacy, social science, sensory activities, along with fine and gross motor learning.

In April our students have been busy learning about weather including rain and wind. We have been learning about animals specifically bunnies and chicks. They have learned about animals that come from eggs and animals that are mammals. The children enjoyed a visit from the petting zoo where they were able to experience live animals at school, hands on learning is a very big part of preschool.

McGinnis Woods Preschool staff would like to thank all of the parents for showing us how much we are appreciated. We truly enjoyed all of the special treats during Teacher Appreciation Week.

## Annie Jr.

A standing ovation goes to the cast of *Annie Jr.* This year's production of *Annie Jr.* was one to be remembered! Olivia McDowell (Annie), Teema Yassine (Ms. Hannigan), Gabby Scott (Ms. Hannigan), Savannah Stuart (Franklin Roosevelt), Tyler Burke (Mr. Warbucks), Brennan Marasco (Rooster), the amazing cast, and the fabulous orphans did a tremendous job portraying and bringing to life these classic characters. There were so many special moments during the six shows that there is not enough room to share them all. The Drama Club at McGinnis Woods is open to students in Prek-8<sup>th</sup>. Its focus is to build self-confidence through theatre to enhance and build life skills and highlight the arts.



A production such as *Annie Jr.* takes so many volunteers and "man hours" to be successful. "Thank you to all parent volunteers who spent hours helping make this production such a success," Xylina Stamper, Director, said. "Drama Club continues to grow each year, and I couldn't be any prouder of all actors involved".



Be sure to check out our *Frozen* and *Shrek* drama/voice summer camps. It is easy to continue the magic of theatre this summer for your little star at McGinnis Woods!





*Come and Create Memories and Friendships at the Spring Carnival!*

