

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



March 2018 Volume 12, Issue 5



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## The latest buzz . . .

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

3-2	3rd Annual Wildcat Book Day
3-5	2nd grade Field Trip to The Cat in The Hat
3-7 and 3-8	PK4-8th In & Out Spring Pictures
3-8	Report Cards Sent Home
3-9	Staff Development Day
3-13	3rd grade Field Trip to Imagine It!
3-14	PK4A and PK5 Field Trip to High Museum *PK4B on 3-23
3-16	5th-8th Field Trip to Bremman Museum
3-19	Science Fair Projects Due
3-22	Kindergarten Field Trip to Puppetry Arts
3-27	STEM Family Fun Night
3-29	4th grade Field Trip to Elachee Star Lab

## 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

March has come in like a lion and hopefully will go out like a lamb as the popular saying goes. The students have enjoyed the warmer, although somewhat erratic weather because they relish the opportunity to get outside each day.

We have especially enjoyed this week and the wonderful decorations that the Parent Association volunteers spread throughout the school campus this past Sunday in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. The daily themes have been such wonderful “pick me ups”! So thank you for making the heart of our school, our VIPs, the teachers, feel extra special for the invaluable job they perform each day.



This Friday we will have our final Staff Development Day of the year. We will be learning more about our five year site visit from AdvancEd which is scheduled for a year from now and also be working together to devise inclement weather learning opportunities for our students. We trust that those plans will only need to be implemented next year as well.

Next week we will kick off our biggest fundraiser of the year, our Dance-a-thon. We will be working with the Get Movin’ Crew again this year to raise funds for some important projects which we believe will enhance our students’ experience at McGinnis Woods. Please plan to help your student do their part to help us meet our goals.

Lastly, please plan to join us for our annual STEM Family Fun Night on Tuesday, March 26 from 6:00-7:30pm. Our Curriculum Team has made some wonderful plans for the night and will be incorporating many new activities including an egg drop, junk car derby races, and the ever popular, breakout rooms. A Spaghetti Dinner will be available through our PA, so be on the lookout for that important information.

Happy Spring,

Ms. Mary



## *Parent Association Update*



It is hard to believe how quickly this school year has gone and that we're already flipping the page to March! It has been an exciting year so far with even more fun in store!

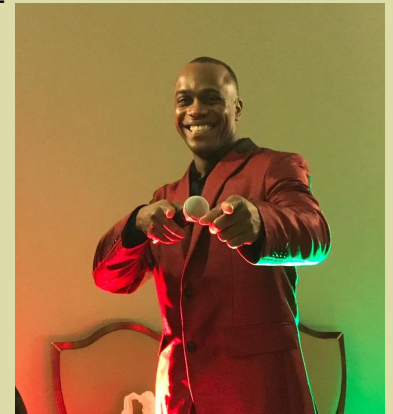
In this hectic and short month of February we held one of our favorite events, the Annual Valentine's Dance. We had one of our largest turn outs ever and were very excited to be at the Polo Club again. The evening was filled with food, dancing, prizes, teacher auctions and, most importantly, lots of laughing and smiling. We hope that you had an amazing time and thank you to all of our families for spending your Saturday evening with us! And a special thank you to our wonderful teachers for their contributions to the teacher raffle. We know the children will have an amazing time enjoying all the

special activities you put together!

March is here which means that Teacher Appreciation Week and the Dance-A-Thon are just around the corner. Teacher Appreciation Week is one of the most exciting and special weeks of the year. It is a week set aside annually to honor the amazing teachers and staff at McGinnis Woods who give of themselves to



inspire and encourage our students each and every day. Each Teacher Appreciation Week is centered on a theme that lets our teachers and staff know just how special they truly are! We can't wait for you all to join us next week in celebrating the stars among us, the McGinnis Woods teachers!



During the week, teachers and staff are treated to a special lunch, a dessert day, a class gift and the chance to win raffle prizes. All raffle tickets are purchased by students in honor of their favorite teachers and staff. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help us with Teacher Appreciation Week activities and decorations, so check your email and the kids binders for the letters and link to signup

genius. Thank you for any help you can offer to make this a very special week for the McGinnis Woods team. We will also have our second annual Dance-A-Thon just before spring break. Everyone had so much fun last year and we can't wait to see what kinds of crazy dance moves are unleashed this time around. Stay tuned for more information and thank you in advance for all the amazing support we know you'll provide! March also holds the PA Spaghetti Dinner before STEM night at the Woods. Don't forget to mark your calendar to let us do the cooking for you!

Thanks again for such a phenomenal start to 2018 and we will see you soon!

Your PA Board



## *Preschool Corner*



Love was in the air all month long during February in the Preschool! The teachers incorporated plenty of activities, science experiments and art projects to fill the children's days with excitement and learning.

The theme for the first week of February was Opposites. Our friends learned many different types of opposites such as day and night, open and closed, sweet and sour, laugh and cry and near and far. Sorting hot and cold items and reading theme related books like "Curious George Book of Opposites" are just a few examples of the activities they did.

In celebration of Valentine's Day the next week was themed Love and Friendship. From talking about being kind to our friends to working together to create a large group art project it was easy to see the love in our classrooms. What better way tie it all together than with our Valentines parties?

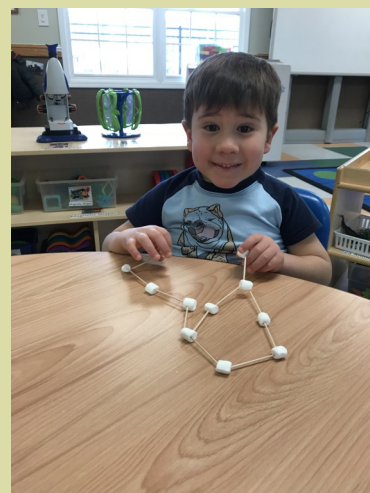
The third week was Healthy Bodies; Healthy Teeth. Being that February is National Dental Health month this theme seemed quite fitting. The kids loved painting with dental floss and toothbrushes, learning how to floss themselves

and making their names out of cut out teeth. The older kids learned the "Recipe for a Body," which is eating a balance diet, exercise and a good night's sleep.

Last week we celebrated with a themed Spirit Week: Monday was wear your country's color, Tuesday was crazy sock day, Wednesday was mismatch and crazy hair day, Thursday was team sports day and Friday was McGinnis Woods Spirit day. This was designed around the Winter Olympics which was our theme for the week.

Some highlighted STEM and Science projects for this month were making elephant toothpaste, which liquid dissolves conversation hearts fastest (the winner was vinegar), building heart structures with toothpicks and marshmallows, fizzy ice volcanoes and the diet coke and Mentos experiment.

We had a visit from the magician this month who pulled a real rabbit out of his hat and next month the petting zoo will be coming to the McGinnis Woods Preschool.



### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**March 5-9: Teacher Appreciation Week**

**Friday, March 9: Spring Pictures**

**March 12-16: Preschool Book Fair**

**Friday, March 23-: Parent's Night Out 6-9p.m.**

**March 29: The visit from the Cricket Petting Zoo at 10:00 a.m.**

**March 30: Preschool Easter egg Hunt**



## *Wildcat Chat*



Our basketball season ended on a positive note and we had 2 players who were invited to play in the All-Star games. Congratulations to Emerson Aber and Alex Rogers for being selected. Many thanks to all those who participated. Special thanks to the parents and faculty who were able to help out throughout the season.

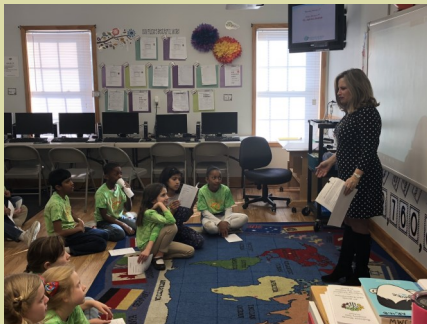
Track and field is in full swing with Coach Alden leading the way. The kids have been working hard for the last month and getting ready for our first meet on March 8th. We currently have 16-18 students on the team but it is still not too late to join. There are many events in track and field and we welcome anybody who wants to try something new. Most of our meets will take place in March and then the last two will be after Spring Break...that includes the championships.

**We are looking forward to an exciting Spring season!**

**Go Wildcats!**



## *Career Day Speakers Introduced Many Jobs*



understand her work. We also heard from a doctor, a special's operative in the military, a Head Hunter, a video producer and a bio-medical engineer to name a few! There are so many options available to our students as possible career choices, and we hope that hearing about these different job paths will help open their minds to future career opportunities!

The annual McGinnis Woods Career Day took place on Friday, February 9th. Students were very excited to hear from the many volunteer speakers who spoke on a wide range of careers. There was a speaker who works at a nearby company that designs high end video gaming products. We also had a local dentist who shared the importance of proper dental hygiene! We had a few volunteers speak of their jobs in technology. We heard from an accountant and an Entrepreneur. There was a police officer who talked about his job in law enforcement, and an architect who had hands-on activities to help students un-



## Middle School Happenings



The Middle School stays busy throughout the year, but as Spring arrives, so does a flurry of activity! The Middle School Social Committee has been giving suggestions for end of the year socials. One of these is an old-fashioned “game night”. We will have a board game social and contest for our 5th-8th grade, complete with a variety of games, drinks and snacks.

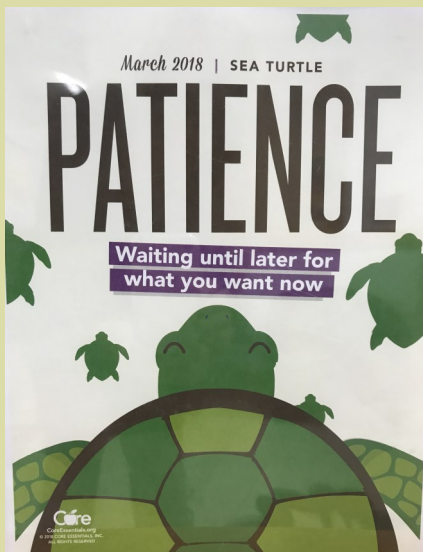
In April the Middle School will have its Third Annual Campfire Program. This has been a favorite of our students. Students meet in the evening at school to cook hotdogs and s’mores over a campfire, perform skits and sing campfire songs!



May brings its own fun and excitement with the Middle School overnight. This year students will travel to Jekyll Island on the coast of Georgia to the Jekyll 4-H center, an extension of the University of Georgia. Students will get to explore the ocean, learning about the ecology of the area. They will also learn about the area further inland, including its plants and animals!



## Character Word of the Month: Patience



The Chick-fil-A Word of the Month for February was Kindness. We defined the word as, "showing others that they are valuable by how you treat them." During March we are focusing on the important character trait of *patience*.

Each morning, during announcements, students are learning about *patience* and are encouraged to practice its meaning, “waiting until later for what you really want right now” throughout each day and the month. The students are also learning the importance of patience during counseling classes with Ms. Jenn.

The special students were acknowledged with special Chick-fil-A coupons for showing kindness on the morning announcements and will be identified for demonstrating *patience*, too. As always a Student of the Month will be chosen from each class and treated to lunch at Cheeseburger Bobby's.



## *Student Council and Jr. Beta Club Updates*



The Student Council worked very hard in November to fill orders for hundreds of Candygrams. Candygrams are Valentines that are purchased and filled out by the buyer. Then, the student council adds a special treat and delivers them on Valentine's Day. Students often send these to friends in other classes throughout the school. Officers were a huge help in making Candygrams an overwhelming success. Our next project will involve celebrating our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and getting ready for our next Order In Day in April.



Our Jr. Beta Club has been very busy over the last couple of months. The 5th and 6th grade members held a coat drive to benefit The Place of Forsyth County. Our school collected and donated 192 coats to help those in Forsyth County in need of some assistance. The coats will be offered free of charge to anyone who needs one. Congratulations to the 3rd grade Superstars, the 6th grade Dragons, and the 2nd grade Penguins for coming in first, second, and third place for most coats donated.

Our 6th grade members also visited with residents in Sunrise Senior Living and had a fun filled morning of BINGO. The 7th and 8th grade members held an ice cream day to benefit Furkids Animal Rescue and Shelter. Be sure to look for more information about those trips which is included in this issue of the Buzz.



## *Jr. Beta Club Visits Sunrise Senior Living*



Supporting our local community through volunteerism is a strong belief for our Jr. Beta Club students. Our students are out volunteering in their respective communities each month. This month we visited Sunrise of Johns Creek, a Georgia senior living community that provides assisted living, memory care and short-term stays.

Jr. Beta students socialized and visited several residents. Our visit concluded with several games of bingo. Residents were excited to have us visit and happy to receive prizes for Bingo games. Our beta students can't wait to visit again.



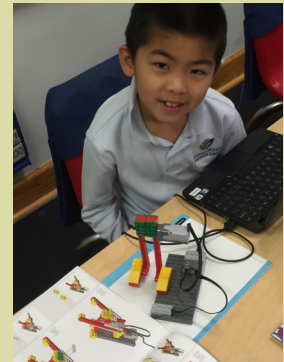
## *New Session of Discovery Clubs*



As our third session Discovery Clubs come to an end, we are getting excited and ready for our last Discovery Club session of the year. We have some wonderful clubs planned for this session that you will not want to miss.

We are excited to announce that Jr. Robotics and STEM with Mrs. Wendy will be returning. This is always a favorite for many students as they love building robots and creating unique designs with her. If you enjoy cooking and getting your hands dirty in the kitchen, then our cooking club with Mrs. Valorie is the perfect place for you! Mr. Josh has hosted our football club last session and since it was such a big hit he has signed up to host it again this session. The boys have all loved this club, learning about football positions, play calls and ending with their own super bowl game! If your child is older and enjoys building things then they will love our Sumobot Club with Mr. Alex and competing with their creations to see whose will win.

Clubs are set to begin the week of March 12 and will run until April 27. You will not want to miss out on these exciting clubs that will round out the end of the year, so sign up soon before it's too late!



## *Jr. Beta Ice Cream Day to Help FurKids*



I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Friday, February 23rd students and teachers were excited to delve into some sweet treats for Ice Cream Day! Our Jr. Beta Club students sponsored an Ice Cream Day with proceeds going to FurKids, an animal rescue and pet shelter organization.

Jr. Beta Club students assembled in the library to count all of the ice cream orders. McGinnis Woods students were able to choose from ice cream sandwiches, fudge pops, chocolate and vanilla ice cream and popsicles. Ice Cream Sandwiches were most popular by far with students with Popsicles following a close second.

Many classes enjoyed their sweet treats after lunch and others in the afternoon before dismissal. Our Jr. Beta Club raised \$150.00. We are so thankful for your support!





## *Illustrator Visits McGinnis Woods*

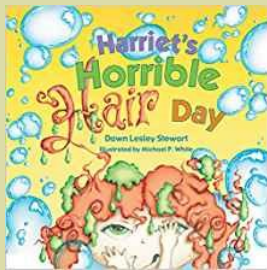


We were honored to host author and illustrator Michael White on February 5 for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. He is native to Atlanta and is passionate about teaching children about his life's work. He is best known for his art illustrations in *Harriet's Horrible Hair Day* by Lesley Stewart, as well as *The Library Dragon* by Carmen Agra Deedy.

Students were mesmerized as they watched him create art work on the spot, which was very unique as he used air brushed paints versus crayons or hand brushed paints. He taught the children that when drawing it is important to begin with basic shapes as they are the foundation for all art. The students enjoyed trying their hand at drawing their own pictures from beginning to end. Many experienced excellent success!



Mr. White shared with the students how he was able to break into the world of illustrating after several failed attempts. He was an inspiration to the children and reminded them to never give up on their dreams, no matter what others may tell you.



## *PreK Classes Visit the New Apple Store at Avalon*



The Pre-K classes loved our field trip to the Apple Store at The Avalon. Each class was warmly welcomed into the Apple Store with a round of applause and shouts. The children felt like celebrities!

Our trip leaders, Brandon and McKell, were very enthusiastic and had fun activities for the children in which to participate. They started the experience with an unplugged activity called Siri Says. It was played just like Simon Says but using the name Siri.

The next unplugged activity the children participated in was getting McKell to follow the children's directions to get him to do a task such as moving across the room to sit in a chair. It was a great segway into the programming portion of our field trip.

Then it was time for the main event! Each of the children were then given an I-Pad with the Tynker Programming App. The children absolutely loved programming the astronaut, featured on the Tynker App, to do the assigned tasks. The children were engaged for the entire field trip and did not want to leave. It was a wonderful hands-on trip for the Pre-K students.





## *The PreK Team Loves Making School Special!*

*Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained, and delighted. -Dr. Seuss.* This quote sums up the philosophy that drives our PreK program and the fabulous teachers who make up the team.

### **Pre K 4A- Turtles**

Ms. Stacey and Ms. Ashley head up this classroom. Ms. Stacey has been teaching here at the Woods for 9 years. She is originally from Ohio and graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelors Degree in Communications. She loves Pre K because she can introduce so many new skills to her students. She has a son Ari(18) and a daughter Elanna (15). She loves her second family here at the Woods. Ms. Ashley has been teaching here at the Woods for over 2 years. She is native to Georgia and has a son Cruz (2 ½) who attends the Pre-school here at McGinnis Woods. She has her Associates degree in Early Childhood Education and is working towards her teacher's certificate. She has an abundance of creative ideas and crafts that she gets to introduce to her students. She loves working in the PreK classes.

### **Pre K 4B-Ducks**

Ms. Robyn and Ms. Valorie head up this classroom. Ms. Robyn is originally from Savannah and has been in the Atlanta area since 1985. She has her degree in Early Childhood Education from Grand Canyon University. She has been teaching at the Woods for the past 10 years. Ms. Robyn is married to her husband Curtis and has two children Amber and Zeffery. She enjoys reading, bowling and, of course, the Falcons and the Braves. Ms. Valorie is from Woodstock and has been teaching here at McGinnis Woods for 8 years. She is married to her husband Ryan and they have three children, Chris, Zachary and Amy who also works here at the Woods. She has earned her CDA and loves to give the children warm hugs and lots of love. She loves spending time with her family and her two Chihuahuas.

### **Pre K 5-Dinos**

Ms. Lisa heads up this classroom. Ms. Lisa is originally from Port Charlotte, Florida. She has her degree from Florida State University in International Relations. She has been a part of the McGinnis Woods family since 1999 and teaching for the past 17 years. Her hobbies include reading, cooking and tennis. She enjoys getting her Pre k 5 students ready for kindergarten. Lisa enjoys spending time with her husband Chris and their children Madison(15), Emerson(12), Bryson(4) and Allison(2). All of their children have and still are attending McGinnis Woods. It is definitely her second family.



## *High Tech High Touch*



On Wednesday, February 12th High Touch High Tech Visited Kindergarten and 1st Grade. With all of our emphasis on STEM learning, it is always a pleasure to partner with High Touch High Tech in order to bring important Science concepts to our students.

The Kindergarteners and 1st graders learned facts about magnets and related vocabulary through hands-on activities. They used words like attract and repel and then were allowed time for exploration with individual magnets. Students were challenged to be detectives and search for things that were attracted to the magnet. They were able to steer a wooden car with the magnet by repelling against it. There was a lot of learning and fun!



## *McGinnis Woods Hosts GISA Spelling Bee*



On Thursday, February 8th, our school hosted one of the GISA Round 1 Middle School Spelling Bee competitions. More than 30 students convened at our school to compete for 10 coveted spots to proceed on to Round 2 later in February.

This is the first year McGinnis Woods has hosted the GISA Spelling Bee, but we were prepared for the task. Our middle school gym was the greeting and testing area for students. There were students from many grade levels and various private schools.

Students were given 100 words, a combination of 50 vocabulary and 50 spelling words. After a lunch break the top 10 student names were announced. Our school champion and 1st runner-up were among the competitors and did a phenomenal job representing our school.

All of our grade level class representatives and class alternates will be recognized at our Spelling Bee reception on March 14th, 2018.





## *STEM Wax Museum Wows!*



STEM activities are important at McGinnis Woods. Each of the grade levels visit our STEM lab weekly and every class does amazing activities that tie into STEM through hands on activities or problem solving.

The third graders have taken this emphasis to heart and incorporated it into their annual Wax Museum. Parents, students and guests alike could tour the museum located in the little gym to learn more about Albert Einstein, Sir Isaac Newton, Milton Bradley, Amelia Earhart, and many more pioneers of the STEM field.

Each third grader chose and researched a STEM pioneer and then dressed as them for the museum and it was fantastic!

A huge congratulations to all our amazing third grade students who worked so hard to make their STEM pioneer come to life.



## *Students Create for Doodle for Google*

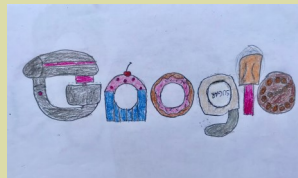


In art class our 3rd through 8th graders creatively drew up some extraordinary doodles for the 10th annual Doodle for Google contest. The theme for this year's contest was "what inspires me?"

The art students came up with some really interesting ideas and images. They were inspired by Fernando the mouse, baking words, conserving natural resources, sports, art, Anime, and nature. They used paint, colored pencils, markers and other tools to create their masterpieces.

We had some productive weeks filled with inspiring discussions and imaginative and innovative artwork. Mr. Dan was extremely proud of the students' doodles.

Here are the entries that will be representing our school. They were created by: Avery Anderson (4th), Ben Hamann, (4th), Marian Freeman (7th), Ava Johnson (6th), Mikayla Stuart (6th), Kale Usher (3rd), Anvita Adusumilli (5th), and Lane Fowler (5th).





## *Pictures from Around the School*

