

# McGinnis Woods Buzz



December 2018 Volume 13, Issue 3



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 12/17-12/20   | Spelling Bee Qualifier Week                     |
| 12-18         | Discovery Forms Due                             |
| 12/18         | 5th-8th Field Trip to The Carlos Museum         |
| 12/18         | Boys Basketball vs Cumberland                   |
| 12-18         | Prek-3 Holiday STEM 3:15-4:30                   |
| 12/19         | Citizen of the Month Lunch                      |
| 12/20         | Holiday Sing-a-long 9:00am                      |
| 12/20         | Report Cards Sent Home                          |
| 12-21-1/4     | Winter Break<br>Preschool and After School only |
| 12/24 - 12/25 | McGinnis Woods Closed                           |
| 1-7-19        | Happy New Year!<br>Classes Resume               |

## 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

The curriculum at McGinnis Woods has been chosen and developed to reflect the values and goals of the school . That is why it is robust and rigorous. We also place great emphasis on building strong character in our students and helping them to develop character traits which will carry them through life.



I recently read this quote by Mary Jo Hand, “When I was a little girl my daddy told me, “It’s not what you do one day, but it’s what you do day after day, like a bucket filling with water, drop by drop.” That quote really speaks to raising children and developing their character. Repetitive practice of kindness, honesty and compassion in an encouraging environment is what will lead to great character.

We intentionally provide our students with opportunities to practice good character and then we recognize and celebrate the positive traits that they are incorporating into their lives. We love that our students are bright, we love that they work hard, but most of all we love to see them become people of character, as that is what this world really needs.

As this year comes to an end and a new one is welcomed in, we trust that you will take some time to reflect on the many blessings that you have and consider how you and your family can give back to those less fortunate. Establishing an attitude of gratitude and compassion will help our students look for ways to help others and solve problems both large and small . This is a lesson worth teaching and a fabulous New Year’s resolution to consider.

We hope that you have a few moments to take some time to read about the many fantastic learning opportunities our students have participated in during the past few months.

From all of us at McGinnis Woods, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2019!

## *Parent Association Update*



Happy Holidays McGinnis Woods Families!

Wow, what an exciting November and December we've had! Our 1st Annual Wildcat Fund was an amazing success with \$35,230 raised! We are so proud of our community and would like to thank all of the families that contributed to this great cause! 100% of every dollar is being put to good use!

Because of your generosity, we are able to supply everything on our list of goals for this year's Wildcat Fund. In fact, we've worked hard to manage the funds diligently and have been able to purchase more than we expected! Stay tuned for some surprises! We've been busy getting things ordered and making arrangements for installations. When our students return to school after Winter Break, they'll be treated to all of the new and wonderful things you made possible. Thank you for coming together to make a real difference in the lives of our students! We appreciate you!

Don't forget that we're always in need of help from great parents just like you. So, if you can help, please visit our website and click the Sign Up button under the volunteer section on the main homepage.

### **Upcoming Events and Fundraisers**

*Family Valentine's Dance - Saturday, February 9th*

Our annual Family Valentine's Dance will be here before you know it! We're excited to let you know the dance will be held at the Polo Club once again this year. The venue is gorgeous and our families always have a fantastic time. More information will come home in January but be sure to Save the Date!

### **Holiday Shoppe Update**

Thank you to all of the families that participated in Holiday Shoppe this year! We worked with Swoozies this year and also decided to source many lower cost items ourselves. We had shoppers of all ages join us and everyone had a fantastic time! We love being able to offer this time-honored tradition to our students every single year and really enjoy watching the joy it brings. Thank you to our parent and teacher volunteers that helped make this wonderful event possible!

### **Meet your 2018-2019 PA Board**

We've got a great team of people serving on your PA Board this year! Are you interested in becoming a part of the PA Board? We'd love to hear from you! Feel free to reach out to any of the Board members listed below to learn more.

Jason Harper - President  
Jaclyn Anderson - Vice President  
Wendy Haye - Treasurer  
Kelly Rawlins - Secretary  
Dena Newberg - Volunteer Outreach  
Jill Reiter - Volunteer Outreach  
Lisa Varshine - Family Outreach and Communications  
Lakshmi Nagamohan - Family Outreach and Communications  
Jacki Freeman - Room Rep Coordinator  
Elysia Gallivan - Trusted Advisor  
Mary Johnson - Principal  
Tonia Usher - Preschool Director

### **Get In Touch**

You can get in touch with the PA Board through our website at [www.mcginiswoodspa.org](http://www.mcginiswoodspa.org) or via email at [pa@mcginiswoods.org](mailto:pa@mcginiswoods.org)

We hope each of you has a wonderful Winter Break and we look forward to seeing you in January!

## ANNUAL WILDCAT FUND DONORS 2018-2019

Thank you to our generous donors for making the 2018-2019 Wildcat Fund a tremendous success! Your gifts have made amazing things possible for our school!

### Friends of McGinnis Woods

The Johnsons  
The Gioia Family  
Brittany Johnson  
Mackenzie Johnson  
Emma M. Abramson  
The Silva Family  
Hans Elsa Olaf  
Spoorthi Tadipatri  
The Usher Family  
Christy VanderWeele  
Tyrone W Rogers  
Ms. Trish  
Josh Wright  
Anonymous  
The Evangelistas  
Johar  
Sujana Pradeep  
Jodi Rogoff  
Anonymous  
Arun  
Anonymmous  
The Reiter Family  
The Musolino Family  
Nishkam Ghughal  
Trip Bowie

Zuhayr Ali  
Dr. Marc Veneziano &  
Dr. Anita Shvarts  
In Honor of Harry Li  
Anderson Family  
Brad, Kim, Tori & Julie  
Kershaw  
The Aber Family  
Anonymous  
Tamara S. Greene, M.D.  
Anonymous  
The Spilka Family  
The Jacowitz Family  
Tseng Family  
The Dunn Family  
The Kumarakalva Family  
Sakina Shabbir  
Darren & Hilarie Durrett  
The Huber Family  
Guzowski Family  
Utsav Kapoor  
The Allyns  
The Nuñez Family  
Joshua Moore & Family  
Anonymous  
The Horne Family  
The Gallivan Family

Dwayne & Lindsay  
Eavenson  
Michael Robinson  
Steven Robinson  
The Newberg Family  
The Lane Family  
The Haye Family  
Anonymous  
Phillips Family  
Miles Mazer  
Anjali, Jaya, Rohan  
Chahwala  
Anonymous  
Ed and Holly Flachbarth

### Wildcat Society

The Harper Family  
In Honor of The Emel  
Family  
Laura and Derek  
Robinson  
Mehraban Family  
The Young Family  
Anonymous  
The Nagamohan Family  
The Peluso Family  
Koehnke Family

### Wildcat Pride Circle

The Bishop Family

### Green and White Circle

## *Preschool Corner*



November and December have been fun filled months with plenty of hands on activities throughout. During November, we celebrated Diwali the Hindu Festival of Lights. The children made beautiful lanterns and completed a fireworks experiment. We learned what the festival of lights was all about and celebrated with special dresses and special food in honor of the event. November also featured Young Readers week and each day during the week the classrooms featured one of their favorite books both classic ones and new ones. This partnered well with our Scholastic Book Fair which we host twice a year. The Book Fair was a great success thanks to you and we also wish to thank you for all who donated books to their child's classroom library.

Of course, we had a great time celebrating Thanksgiving and kicking off the Holiday Season. Some of our children even participated in the PA's Holiday Shoppe and purchased special gifts for their parents and families.

The Preschoolers have been learning about hibernation through a variety of themed activities. Each of the classrooms became bear dens, where the children made their own blubber to feel how animals stay warm in the cold. Some of the children performed a neat STEM experiment that demonstrated the importance of blubber during the winter months. The children also created wonderful art work featuring animal

friends that hibernate.

Lee Bryant, the Puppet Guy, came to visit. The children really enjoy his program and always learn so much from his puppet friends.



*Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from your  
Preschool family!*



# Thanksgiving Feasts, A Highlight of Each Year!

By Mr. Josh



One of the most wonderful events of the year at McGinnis Woods is the Thanksgiving Feast. It combines entertainment and togetherness along with food...you can't go wrong with that!

This year's feasts were tremendous! How do I know, you ask? Well, the stars aligned and my three children each had their feast on a separate day of the week. You might be asking yourself, "But wait! Weren't there four feasts this year?" Yes, there were. My own first grade class' Feast was the one-day that my children did not have a feast. In summation, that's a lot of turkey in one week for ol' Mr. Josh.

Nonetheless, attending the feasts never got old. Each class had their own cute performance, unique costumes and one-of-a-kind table settings; one class even had a guest turkey visit. Surprisingly, the menu varied a bit each day, too.

In reflection of these events, I kept coming back to the word: "Magical". Maybe this word kept coming back to me because this event never grew stale...even after four days in a row of feasting. It continues to impress me even after working here, and attending this event, for 17 years. Or maybe the word, "Magical" kept popping into my head because even after all of that food... I didn't gain a single pound during the week. Scout's Honor! That is proof that there were supernatural forces at play. Hopefully all of you enjoyed it as much as I do every single year.

Now, I wonder how many holiday parties I can crash this December...



## Service and Sweets



Many think of November as a time of giving and here at McGinnis Woods we agree! We had our annual Service and Sweets program with our middle school students this past month. This is a wonderful tradition that sets our middle school students apart from the other children at McGinnis Woods.

In years past, our students have done a variety of activities to help within our school and also in the larger community and this year was no different. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had originally planned to help at the Aquaponic Farm through Meals by Grace, but unfortunately the rain prohibited our trip, but there was still plenty to do at McGinnis Woods.

The middle school students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade joined forces to help throughout our preschool, elementary school and middle school. Students organized class libraries and labeled AR books, organized and filed music, helped organize PE equipment and Athletic uniforms, read to our preschool students, decorated for our performance during the sweets part of the day, and even made cards, signs, and goodies for local first responders.

After the middle school students had done their part to help, they performed for family and friends and enjoyed some hard earned treats. All of us at McGinnis Woods were so proud and thankful for our wildcats and their contributions to others!



## Wildcat Chat



The winter season of team sports is underway and moving quickly! Both our girls and boys basketball teams will be half through their seasons after this week's contests at Atlanta Academy. Thankfully both teams have had very successful starts to their seasons.

The Lady Wildcats are currently 3-1 and have resembled a true powerhouse team thus far this season. On defense the Lady Wildcats have not allowed a single opponent to reach double digits. They held Atlanta Academy to eight points, Fulton Science Academy to eight points and Howard only managed to produce two. However, the domination doesn't stop on that end of the floor. The girls have had no problem finding ways to score either.

Their scoring average is 22 points per game and the girls have done a great job of getting everyone involved in the action!

Perhaps that level of success is thanks to the years of coaching experience their head coach possess. The Ladies are led by Mr. Jim Stuart this season. Mr. Stuart has been coaching basketball here at McGinnis Woods for a number of years and he enjoys the opportunity to help the student-athletes excel both on and off the court. He has certainly been impressed with the team's performances thus far, but admits there are still parts of their game to improve upon as they enter into the second half of the season.

The boys have been able to find success as well through their first six games of the year. They have produced four wins and two losses thus far. However, one of the losses was to a non-conference team, which bodes well for the team's playoff hopes, and keeps them a perfect 4-1 in the division. Defense is where the team seems to find most of their success. They have done a good job of creating turn overs that lead to break away baskets and have forced teams to settle for low percentage shots outside of the paint. However, their offense has been notable as well. The team averages 24.2 points per game and has done a respectable job of finding their way inside the paint for the majority of their field goals.

That being said there is certainly room for improvement as we look ahead to the second half of the year. Staying out of foul trouble and rebounding would definitely be at the top of that list. I'm looking forward to seeing the teams progress and have been impressed with their work ethic thus far.

I'd like to thank all of our Wildcat parents for all that they have done for the teams this season. I truly appreciate your support, service, suggestions and school spirit! Finally, team pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The players are required to wear their uniforms with white shoes and socks for the pictures taken that morning. Thanks again for all that you do and GO WILDCATS!!



## *1st Graders Visit Build-a-Bear and Children's Wish Foundation*



For well over a decade, the first grade classes at McGinnis Woods Country Day School have been taking an unusual field trip every December. Most of our field trips complement, and bring to life, our Science and Social Studies curriculum.

But not this one.

Every December, our school's first grade classes have been going to the Build-A-Bear Workshop at the North Point Mall. Now, every six and seven-year-old that you know, would certainly love to head to the mall and construct a new, stuffed buddy for themselves! But this trip isn't about that.

This field trip is about understanding.

It is about empathy, compassion and giving.

Difficult though it was, all of the stuffed bears that our first grade students made are to be given to families in need. Thanks to a partnership with the wonderful people at The Children's Wish Foundation, each of these special bears that our

first graders made are matched up with a child who could really use a furry friend.

Not only does this field trip provide an opportunity to give back to the community around us, it gives us a chance to teach the children how to take a step back and see all the good things that they have in their own lives. We wanted to teach the students not to take for granted all the little luxuries that they enjoy each day. To simply make them conscious of it.

They all have a warm place to stay.

They all have their health.

They all have a family who loves them.

So this field trip, different though it may be, is perhaps the most important trip we take all year. It helps open the children's eyes to see how truly lucky they are and, just as importantly, helps those who need it most during the Holiday Season. We are so proud of our Falcons!

## *December's Word of the Month: Compassion*



The Word of the Month for December is Compassion. Compassion is defined as, "Caring enough to do something about someone else's need."

Throughout each month, students have been learning about the meaning and the importance of the character words each morning on announcements and in counseling with Ms. Jenn. Our school is filled with many compassionate students and the teachers are on the lookout for exceptional students showing this character trait.

These special students will be acknowledged with special Chick-fil-A coupons on the morning announcements. One generous student was chosen from each class as the Citizen of the Month and taken to a special lunch at Cheeseburger Bobby's on December 19<sup>th</sup>.



## *Pow Wow at Stone Mountain Park*



Third Grade students learned so much during their recent visit to the Native American Pow Wow held at Stone Mountain Park's Historic Square. The event showcased Native American culture through dance, music, authentic craft demonstrations, cooking traditions, storytelling, wildlife presentations and more.

Students got to experience the central role of dance in native culture as Native Americans from across the U.S. presented their tribal dance. We were enlightened to learn about primitive skills such as flint-knapping, bow making, fire starting, open fire cooking, and pottery.

This field trip correlates with our unit about Native Americans which is part of our 3rd grade state standards. During one of our STEM lessons we had created Native American dwellings, so it was extra neat for us to be able to crawl inside a tipi!

We love to learn by doing and getting out in the community to take advantage of such unique experiences. Great fun was had by all!



## *Books, Books, and More Books!*



Have you ever visited an enchanted forest full of amazing books that transport you to faraway places? In addition, that same forest is filled with wonderful people to meet and learn about? Well McGinnis Woods students visited one such place during our Scholastic Book Fair.

There were many enchanting titles and new book series to peruse through. Our students were so excited to create their student wish lists

and find out what special books were hiding inside our book fair.

A special highlight was having some of our middle school student's volunteer as Book Fair helpers. Students in seventh and eighth grade assisted younger students with their wish lists and selecting appropriate books to read.

Thanks to your support new books went to libraries in every classroom! Thank you for encouraging reading and supporting our mission to inspire our students through reading.





## *MW Chorus Shines at Alpharetta's Light the Night Tree lighting*

The 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus participated in the Light the Night community event for the City of Alpharetta at their annual tree lighting ceremony. The cold and rain did not keep our wonderful students and their director, Brittany Lu, from performing a lovely rendition of “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.” They sang and danced and had everyone in the audience enjoying and feeling the Christmas spirit. We thank all who came out to participate and support the chorus during their performance.



## *New Year, New Discovery Clubs*



Our second session of Discovery Clubs is sadly coming to an end. This session included some wonderful activities that the students enjoyed. Jr. Robotics and STEM with Ms. Wendy is always a fun club that the students enjoy while using their creative minds to build unique structures. Mr. Josh’s Football Club was clearly a favorite as the students loved learning about football and enjoyed their mock Super bowl tournament. The Cooking students led by Ms. Valorie enjoyed making many tasty treats including cookies, ice cream, pizza and quesadillas. Discovery Clubs always prove that learning is fun!

The third session of Discovery Clubs begins the week of January 7, 2019. This session will include some exciting and unique clubs. Jr. Robotics, Tennis, Football Club, STEM Club, Sumobots, Chess, and Drama will be offered. All clubs will end the week of February 22, unless make up classes are needed. We look forward to another wonderful session. Be sure to hand in your forms before the classes fill, so that your student can participate in these wonderful activities.



## *Middle School Happenings*

The Middle school Social committee has been planning some upcoming socials and stuck with an old favorite for the month of December. The students voted to participate in a gingerbread decorating contest and Secret Pal! Students have participated in the gingerbread decorating contest for the past few years and it is always a favorite! Groups of students in each homeroom were given the same set of supplies to build and decorate a one-of-a-kind gingerbread house. Once finished, students put these masterpieces on display for all of the Middle School to view and vote on the houses in different categories.

Students also wanted to take part in Secret Pal, getting to play the role of Holiday elf to their friends! Some students even managed to keep it a secret! Whether students knew the giver or not it was certainly a fun event for all that participated!

During second semester, a new social committee will be chosen to plan events for the next part of the school year, including a middle school dance party and our most popular event of the year, our middle school campfire program!



## *Wild Bots Robotics Team*



On December 15<sup>th</sup>, McGinnis Woods sent our Wild Bots robotics team to the annual FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competition at Taylor Road Middle School in Johns Creek. This year's team roster included Peter Lisi, Leon Schultz, Jasmine Muniz, Sardhak Boddu, Naqash Gajwani, Alex Jacowitz, Sanah Jain, Ben Tseng, and Pranish Mandava.

At the FLL Regional 30 teams, comprised of 3-10 members ages 9-14 competed to solve missions on the Into Orbit playing field using LEGO EV3 robots and LEGO MINDSTORMS programming software. Teams were judged on core values, robot design, as well as a research project.

Our team had a great showing, but did not win the competition. All of the students had a lot of fun, and with the horrible weather that Saturday, it was a beautiful day to stay indoors at the all-day competition.

Thank you to Alex Klein for coaching and chaperoning our students! He is eager to begin working with our robots during the Sumo Bot challenges he has planned for Discovery Clubs once we return from Winter Break.





## December Art Show by Mr. Dan



The Art Show was a huge success! The student's artwork looked beyond extraordinary! I saw many smiling faces eager to show their family members their hard work framed up.

I would like to take a moment and thank all the teachers whom helped set up and run the show, along with all the parents for coming out and purchasing a true keepsake masterpiece. The students really enjoyed the whole process from our discussions on the assignments to creating colorful and detailed images.

Leading up to the show the students helped develop and decorate wonderful tree centerpieces that brought more color to an already colorful night! Their overall efforts and ideas were inspiring to each other, their families, the faculty, and mostly to their art teacher!



## McGinnis Woods Loves the Arts



At McGinnis Woods we are always looking for opportunities to showcase our students' and staffs' talents. During the first few weeks of December, audiences enjoyed Band, Chorus, and Recorder concerts, led by Ms. Brittany. The concerts helped to get us into the holiday spirit.

The Chorus Concert explored what the holiday season means to us all. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade made us smile by singing and playing boomwhackers to Hannukah, Han-nukah. They also melted our hearts with their angelic voices singing *Where are You Christmas*. The 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade made us want to dance with Jingle Bell Rock and we all got a giggle out of the new holiday classic, *Do You Want to Build a Snowman?*. The students' speaking parts between songs tied everything together and helped us to understand how we all celebrate the holidays in different ways, but are united by the hope and love the season brings.

The Band Concert included songs played by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade bands. Each group played some trademark songs of the season from *Jingle Bells* to *Good King Wenceslas*. There were also some small groups and solo players who showed off their skills. Members of the band club impressed with holiday duets and trios, and several middle school students played solos that showed how truly talented they were!

The Recorder Concert featured our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who have worked hard to master the recorder in preparation for other instruments in the coming semester. They started off with a lively version of *Fum, Fum, Fum* that made us all want to dance. Then they transitioned to some slower pieces which were played with impressive skill. Ms. Brittany also recognized the students who had reached "black belt" status on their recorders and they played a special number.

With such wonderful music being heard around the school, the sounds of the season are truly in the air!





## *Forsyth County Technology Fair*



This is the second year that McGinnis Woods participated in the Forsyth County Technology Fair. In this competition, students from grades 3-12 from Forsyth, Dawson, and Lumpkin County, compete in different technical categories. We improved upon our results from last year, and sent even more students! Our showing at the County level was formidable. From the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade group, we sent Avery Anderson (Video Production), Lexi Kuligowski (Animation), Sanah Jain (Video Production), and Lola Hazard (Internet Applications). From the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade group, we sent Anthony Musolino (Video Production), Ari Rogoff (Video Production), and Olesia Peluso (Multimedia Production). Of our seven participants, five students placed: Ari Rogoff and Avery Anderson placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sanah Jain, Lola Hazard, and Olesia Peluso placed 1<sup>st</sup>. This means that Sanah, Lola, and Olesia will move on to the Georgia State Technology Fair held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Macon Campus of Middle Georgia State University. Congratulations to all of students, and a big thank you to Gary Fink and Anne Avilés for accompanying our students on December 1<sup>st</sup>!



## *Ms. Jacki, Librarian Extraordinaire*

If you are searching for a book or need help with AR, chances are you will be heading to our library to see, Ms. Jacki. This is Ms. Jacki's 17<sup>th</sup> year at McGinnis Woods and her 10<sup>th</sup> year as the school librarian.

Ms. Jacki is originally from Augusta, GA and yes, she does attend the Master's golf tournament! She has twin girls who have attended McGinnis Woods since they were 5 months old. Her daughters are now in eighth grade and will be graduating this year.

One of Ms. Jacki's most favorite places in our school is the library. There you will find her cataloging new books, assisting students with finding books, setting up book fairs or conducting class spelling bees. She firmly believes, "Once students find the right book the possibilities are endless." This is why she takes pride in making sure students are exposed to fascinating reads that challenge them and make reading fun. Ms. Jacki and her family live in Milton. You are very likely to see them around at nearby restaurants or shopping areas and of course the local bookstore!



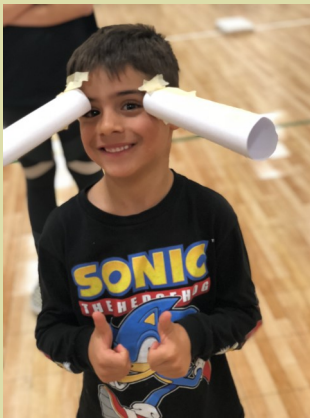
## *Student Council and Beta Clubs Serve in Their Own Ways*



Recently, the Jr. Beta Club has been assisting within our school community. We got our recycling program up and running, as well as hosted hot chocolate and cookies for the Holiday Shoppe Preview. As part of being a member of the club, students are required to volunteer their time to make our school community and community at large better. Students have been lending a hand by teaching younger students flash cards, assisting teachers, and helping out at the concession stand during games. Lastly, the students celebrated the community helpers that visited with our younger students at the end of October. They surprised them with cookies and thank you notes. As we look to January, we have more service projects in the works. Be on the look out for flyers on how you can help them help our community.

Student Council has also been very busy. In our November meeting with the representatives, we made turkey treat cups that were filled with candy to show our teachers and staff just how thankful we are for them. In our December meeting representatives were given the difficult task of counting all of the money and recording the orders for our December Order In Day. On December 13th, many students were able to enjoy their Chick fil-A lunch thanks to these students. Stay tuned for more Student Council news, as we have lots of exciting things on the horizon after the new year.

## *Parents Night Out Fun!*



Friday, December 14th was a fun time for twenty-two children who signed up to participate in "How the Grinch Stole Parents Night Out". Ms. Amy and Ms. Mary kept the children entertained with a Grinch themed night which included green pancakes, green ice cream floats, Grinch fruit kabaobs and much more while their parents had a relaxing time out on the town.

The children had a wonderful time playing team games in the gym which included a cool STEM activity of making antlers, playing a gift wrap relay and then having a sleigh competition complete with reindeers and riders. They also made beautiful ornaments to commemorate the evening. The night concluded with a viewing of the

2000 movie version of the beloved tale.

Be on the lookout for more Parents Night Out fun in the new year.





## *MW Student Staring in Christmas Dreams*



McGinnis Woods is extremely excited for Benny Hamann, a fifth grader at the school, who is experiencing a dream of a lifetime. Ben loves drama and has been performing in the drama program at McGinnis Woods for many years. He has been involved in many of the school's productions throughout the years, including Peter Pan and a pirate during the mini-version of Peter Pan, Jr. in 2017 and as Skipper, in the school's production of Madagascar, Jr. last April.

During the Summer of 2018, Ben was asked to audition for a paid role in the upcoming Christmas show at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi. After the audition process, Ben landed the part and began learning his lines!

He is currently at the Beau Rivage rehearsing for the production of "Christmas Dreams" which opens on December 15th and runs

through December 27th. He is performing alongside, Xylina Cassandra, the Drama Teacher at McGinnis Woods and one of the primary stars of the show, which makes this learning experience even more special. He even has his own dressing room!



For more information or to secure tickets, please contact the [Box Office at the Beau Rivage](#).

## *Winter Break Fun!*



Winter Break is quickly approaching and we have so many fun and exciting things in store for our After School students. Students will have fun filled days of group games, arts and crafts, time in our computer lab and exciting field trips.

On Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, we will venture out to Aurora Cineplex to see the new Mary Poppins movie. While there, students will enjoy a snack pack with popcorn, water and a delicious treat. On Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will head over to North Point Mall to Build-a-Bear to make special furry friends to take home. Students will need to bring

a packed lunch for this field trip. If your child will be coming to McGinnis Woods over our Winter Break, please let the front desk know and sign a permission slip for the field trips.

McGinnis Woods will be closed for the holidays on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.





## *Save the Date!*

Our annual Open House is scheduled for Saturday, January 26 from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Do you know someone looking for a new school for their student? Invite them to visit the school and learn about our curriculum, meet the teachers and envision their child learning and growing at McGinnis Woods!

This is also the 20th year of McGinnis Woods and we are commemorating this milestone on Saturday, January 26 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. We hope that you will join us for a time of refreshment, laughter, and celebration as we reflect on the past, present and future of our great school!



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday, January 26  
1:00-3:00pm

**20TH YEAR CELEBRATION**  
4:00-6:00pm



## McGinnis Woods is celebrating its 20th Year!

- Private non-parochial education for infants through 8th grade
- Nurturing environment featuring outstanding teachers, small class sizes with assistants, hands-on academics, STEM, and frequent fields trips
- Middle school program
- After school program, competitive sports, and robotics teams

Set up a tour today  
770-664-7764



**McGINNIS WOODS**  
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

5380 Faircroft Drive | Alpharetta, GA 30005  
770-664-7764 • [www.mcginniswoods.org](http://www.mcginniswoods.org)  
SACS, GAC, and NAEYC accredited



## *Pictures from Around the School*

