

McGinnis Woods Buzz



November 2021, Volume 16, Issue 1



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz . . .

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DATES TO REMEMBER

11-16	5-8th Thanksgiving Event 1:30pm
11-17	2nd-4th Thanksgiving Event 12pm
11-18	K-1st Thanksgiving Event 12pm
11-19	PreK Thanksgiving Event 12pm
11-22- 11-26	No Classes
11-22- 11-24	After School Only
11-25	Happy Thanksgiving!
11-30	Citizen of the Month Lunch
12-6- 12-10	PA Holiday Shoppe
12-7 and 12-9	Middle School Final Exams
12-20- 1-3	Winter Break

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



Happy fall! We are really enjoying the new season and cooler weather as it has given our students more opportunities to visit our Nature Explore Certified Classroom to gather leaves and seeds for classroom activities and to enjoy our beautiful world!

Our students are working so hard each day and have really grown since August when we embarked on this new school year. The past week is one of our favorites, as we have enjoyed learning from our students as they have shared oral presentations about their fantastic Project Showcase projects and Technology Fair projects, too. The sheer array of topics that the students have researched is unbelievable. We have so many bright, creative and motivated students! More about these projects is shared in this edition of the Buzz.

Learning is about more than just facts and figures. At McGinnis Woods we focus on the importance of caring for our school community and community at large, too. Each day during the morning announcements we focus on a word of the month and our goal to always Be Kind! We intentionally provide our students with opportunities to show good character and give back to the community. This month, our Student Council students have run a food drive to benefit The Place and the middle schoolers are also gathering items for Operation Shoebox! We continually strive to celebrate the positive character traits that the students are developing and the care that they show others. We love that our students are capable and hard-working, but most of all we love to see them become people of character, because that is what our world really needs.

We are wrapping up our 4th Annual Wildcat Fund. Thank you to the many families and staff who have contributed to the fund. We are currently at 75.5% of our goal of raising \$37,500.00, so it is well within reach! Please do your part to help us meet the goal so that we can add enhancements to our curriculum and campus through the addition of a class set of acoustic guitars, a rock climbing wall, a class set or virtual reality goggles and curriculum, and an outdoor amphitheater for more unique learning experiences.

Please enjoy this issue of the McGinnis Woods Buzz. It is jam packed with interesting articles and items to keep you informed and excited about our school. As a reminder, there will be no classes for students in PreK4-8th grade the week of November 22-26. The Preschool and After School will be open and available on Monday through Wednesday. The entire school campus will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving.

We wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are so blessed and happy to partner with you each day.

Ms. Mary

Parent Association Update

Hello McGinnis Woods Wildcats!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here!

Speaking of being thankful, we are so grateful for everything that our teachers and staff do for all of our students. We recently surprised all of them with one of our "Random Acts of Kindness." Each teacher and staff member was given a beautiful custom set of four travertine coasters as a way to say thanks! This was just one small way to let them know they are appreciated!

There was overwhelming interest in our spirit wear sale and we wanted to say thank you for your orders! There are just a few orders still backordered and we are trying to get them for you as quickly as possible! Don't forget that students can wear their spirit wear on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month!

Be sure to check out our upcoming events below and get in touch if you have any questions or feedback!



4th Annual Wildcat Fund

The 4th Annual Wildcat Fund is in full swing and we are so grateful for all the families that have made a contribution. We created the Wildcat Fund to make a real and significant impact on our school each year. Rather than asking families to sell cookies, wrapping paper or other goods to raise funds, we focus our efforts on this single, meaningful fundraiser.

If you haven't already, please consider making a donation to this amazing fund. It is an opportunity to have 100% of your gift benefit our students, school and McGinnis Woods community. To learn more or make your donation, you can visit [<https://unsafe:about:blank>] www.annualwildcatfund.com.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Shoppe - Week of December 6th

Our annual Holiday Shoppe is one of the most beloved events at McGinnis Woods. Students will have the opportunity to shop for family, friends, teachers and pets for the holiday season. All gifts are wrapped and bagged right at the school so that everything remains a surprise! This event will be held in early December but preparation is already underway! This year will be a little different from past years but it will still be magical! More information will be coming home soon.

Meet your 2021-2022 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
Aimee Nobile - Board Member
Jean Greer-Lawrence - Board Member
Hally Patel - Board Member
Sonya Dame - Board Member
Rebecca Rabun - Board Member
Brandon Kingsbury - Board Member
Mary Johnson - Principal
Maria Rosdahl - Preschool Director

Get In Touch

You can get in touch with the PA Board through our website at www.mcginniswoodspa.org or via email at pa@mcginniswoods.org



Preschool Corner



It is our favorite time of year at McGinnis Woods Preschool... FALL! We have had a fun filled October learning about fire prevention, fall leaves, pumpkins, and Halloween.

During fire prevention week we learned about how fire can be helpful and hurtful. We shared stories of campfires and roasting marshmallows! We also talked about wildfires and house fires. Our teachers cover steps on how we can keep ourselves safe! Our children are now experts on how to stop, drop, and roll!

Fall leaves were falling all around when our 3B class went for a walk on the trail to find different shaped and colored leaves for their collages. During Ms. Tanya's art class our students of all ages painted their own fall leaves.

We started off our pumpkin week by documenting the different shapes and sizes pumpkins come in. Next, we opened our pumpkins and explored all the textures and smells the inside had to hold. Finally, and the kid's favorite, we had a pumpkin volcano!

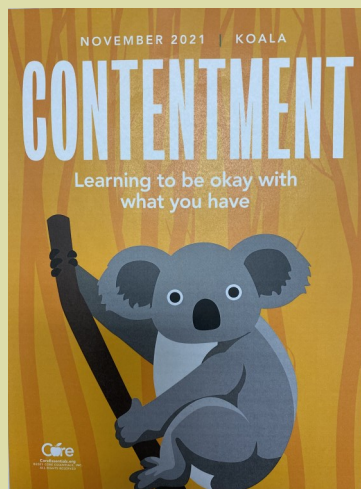
There was so much fun and learning to be had the week of Halloween! We started off the week with counting candy corn. Marshmallow skeletons were next on our list along with Jack-o-lantern emotions. We ended the week with our classroom Halloween parties, and costume parade.



November will bring many more learning opportunities with themes of "Family", "Gobble Gobble", "We are Thankful", and "Hibernations"!

Thank you so much for your continued support for the preschool and entrusting us with your most prized possessions each day!

November's Word of the Month: Contentment



Each month we focus on a character trait which we would like to see developed in our lives. This school year we have learned about **Wisdom, Initiative, Individuality, and Contentment**. Each morning we start our morning broadcasts with our word of the month and a thought or video created by Core Essentials, Inc about the word. These thoughts often suggest ways that we can learn to live out the word and help our families, school and greater community while we do so.

An upcoming thought for November is: *"This month we'll celebrate Thanksgiving. We typically think of Thanksgiving as a time to give thanks for all the blessings in our life. In a sense, it's also a time to show contentment. While our lives certainly aren't perfect, we can be content with the things we DO have. This holiday, as you show your gratitude, look around at your life with contentment, too."* We all can learn from such sage advice.

Wildcat Chat

Hello Wildcat Sports Fans!



We have had an exciting start to our school year and Fall Sports program. Our Boys' Soccer Team had several back-to-back victories throughout the season and finished a successful year competing in the playoffs. They were led by our 8th grade goalie Leon, who provided the leadership our young team needed. Leon and the other defenders (Taz, Arjit, Maddox, Liam, and Simon) kept opponents at bay while our top scorers (Joseph, Ben, and Marty) filled the opponent's nets with goals! Our 21-player squad was fortunate to have so many team players carrying out their roles on offense and defense (Kevin, Will, Tristan, Jackson, Hunter, Martin, Aaron, Arvin, Nuzhat, Raiyan, and Stephan). A BIG THANKS to our Team Mom Aimee Nobile who kept us all informed, hydrated, and connected throughout the season! Also, a special Thanks to Coach Ryan for leading the boys throughout the playoffs.

Our Girls' Volleyball Team really grew this season thanks to coaches Ryan King, Tayler Evangelista, and Riley Smith. The inexperienced girls had a wonderful experience together led by 8th graders Avery and Violet; and under their leadership, our team made up of mostly 5th and 6th graders, showed improvement every week. They finished the year in the first round of the playoffs taking one game from the eventual league champions. We are so proud of Avery, Violet, Aashna, Elsa, Afsheen, Sydney, Shviti, Mayson, Zuha, and Sophia. A BIG THANK YOU to Team Mom Jackie Anderson for keeping us all connected and organized during the season!



Our Basketball Teams have played in their first competitions of the season now that the Winter Sports season is upon us. We are glad to have 21 boys and 9 girls on our two teams. They are being led this year by Coach Roger Gallivan and Coach Ryan. Please make plans to come out and support them as we have several home games this season.

In the Spring we plan to offer Golf and Track & Field for middle school athletes. More details will be provided in 2022.

Thanks for your continued support, involvement, and encouragement.

Coach C.



Go Wildcats!

Scholastic Book Fair is a Crowd Pleaser



Our Fall Scholastic Book Fair is full of excitement this year! Fliers promoting the event were sent home so that parents could see the amazing assortment of items included in the fair. We kicked off our annual event for students with sneak previews and lots of wishing.

On Friday, November 12, 2021, McGinnis Woods students created their book fair wish lists from the hundreds of titles available. Students also made sure to include the ever popular Pop Fidget Keychains, Lock Diaries, Star Wars, Dog Man, and bookmarks to their lists. Classroom teachers also created classroom wish lists with hopes of receiving new selections for their class libraries. Many parents purchase a book or two for their child's classroom teachers to add to their libraries.

All funds raised from the book fair assist with purchasing of books and other materials for our library and classrooms. We have purchased many novel sets and class sets to support our curriculum throughout the school with Scholastic Bucks.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and book fair! This is a super way to keep our students reading each and every day.



Science Olympiad Teams Formed



The Science Olympiad team has been formed for the 2021-2022 school year and is already practicing! McGinnis Woods has an Elementary Club for 3rd and 4th graders and a Middle School Club for 5th and 6th graders. We have 20 students participating and these students are enjoying many types of STEM activities.

There are 18 events total that these students will be able to compete in during the regional competition which will be held in the spring. Some of the events involve working as a team, and some events are individually based. Every event is STEM based and include popular activities like bridge building, disease detectives, and

the egg drop to name a few of the 18 events available for this year. Our Science Olympiad club meets on Wednesdays during afterschool.

Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing opportunity and diversity in science, creating a technologically-literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. We are thrilled at the participation and enthusiasm that our students have for science!



PreK Teachers Make Each Day of Learning Special



Who has patience galore, enjoys answering endless questions, and loves teaching four and five year olds? Our fabulous Pre-K 4 and 5 teachers! Our amazing PreK team consists of five committed teachers here at McGinnis Woods.

Ms. Abby and Ms. Liz are the teachers in PreK4-A All Stars. Ms. Abby is a Georgia native. She grew up in East Cobb and went to Pope High School. She graduated from Georgia Highlands College with a degree in Education. She worked at McGinnis Woods in 2015-2016 then got married and moved to Chicago. She is happy that her husband's job brought them back to Georgia and to McGinnis Woods! She loves spending time with her husband

Mike, her dogs Kona & Picasso, and her cat Casper.

Ms. Liz lives in Alpharetta and has been part of the Windward community for 19 years. She has 22 years of experience in preschools. This will be her fourth year with the McGinnis Woods family. She has three grown children and two grandchildren. She is currently completing her CDA and is looking forward to this school year with the All Stars.

Ms. Natascha and Ms. Valorie are both teachers in PreK4-B Cats. Ms. Natascha was born and raised in Germany where she met her husband while he was serving in the US military. She has been married for 31 years and has two boys Daniel (22) and Benjamin (15). Her educational journey began in nursing where she completed her studies in Germany before coming to the United States. After having her second child, she decided to pursue a new career in early childhood education. This school year marks her 15th year as a preschool teacher! She also has a CDA certification. In her free time, she likes to read and watch movies with her family.

Ms. Valorie is from Woodstock. She has three children: our very own Ms. Amy, Chris, and Zachary. Ms. Valorie received her CDA in 2011. She has been with McGinnis Woods for thirteen years. Her hobbies include reading and any thing outdoors. Ms. Valorie loves to spend time with her husband Ryan and her family going on different vacations. In her spare time, she is outside playing with her three Chihuahuas.

Ms. Lisa is the teacher in PreK-5 Dinos. Ms. Lisa is originally from Port Charlotte, Florida. She attended Florida State University and received a degree in International Affairs. Ms. Lisa has been with McGinnis Woods since May of 1999. This is her 19th year teaching in the elementary school. Her hobbies include reading, and cooking. She enjoys spending time with her husband Chris and her children Madison (18), Emerson (16), Bryson (8) and Allison (6).



Discovery Clubs



McGinnis Woods Discovery Clubs are 6-week long clubs that are offered 4 times a year. We are now in our second session of Discovery Clubs. This session includes JR Robotics, the Robotics Team, JR Cooking, Cooking, Chess, and Boys' and Girls' Basketball. Clubs are a fantastic way for students to learn new skills or refine current skills while enjoying time with friends.

Chess Club (Grades 4 - 8) While some students are just learning chess, others are perfecting their chess skills. This club meets once a week with Ms. Kathy for friendly play and discussion of strategies and tactics.

JR Cooking (Pre-K) and Cooking (K - Grade 4) Ms. Valorie focuses on experimenting with foods' textures and colors with easy, fun (and yummy) recipes that students can also make at home. These treats include cookies, indoor s'mores, and magic crescents puffs!

Jr Robotics (Pre-K - Grade 3) with Ms. Wendy is always a fun club that the students enjoy while using their creative minds to research, design, and build and program unique structures with Lego kits.

Robotics Team (FIRST® LEGO® Competitive Team, Grades 4 -8) with Ms. Wendy is a competitive club that includes research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering. Club members must build and program a LEGO robot that can navigate the missions of the robot challenge.

The third session of Discovery Clubs will begin the week of January 9, 2022. More information with club availability and descriptions of each will be sent before winter break. Remember to sign up right away- clubs fill up quickly!



Did You Know?



McGinnis Woods has a lost and found and it is overflowing with unlabeled coats, jackets, uniform shirts, water bottles and much, much more. If your child is missing an item, please contact the front office and we will try to locate the item for you.

Periodically, we will also display lost items on the morning announcements and next to the carpool lines so that they can be identified and claimed. Unclaimed items are donated to Goodwill quarterly.

Please label all clothing items and water bottles so that we can return them to their owners as soon as possible.

After School is Fun

McGinnis Woods is proud to offer an excellent After School program in which children are encouraged to complete homework, learn something new, enjoy some exercise, and have fun playing with friends. Students are grouped with children of similar ages and grade levels for each of their activities.

Each day, the students are greeted by their After School Teachers who serve them a healthy snack and then begin their homework. Homework time is a time for the students to begin their assigned schoolwork or quietly read a book. Teachers assist the children and lend support, when necessary. Teachers also check student binders to make sure that all homework is started. Each month, After School classes that meet their homework goals have a reward to celebrate their successes!

Many students take advantage of the Discovery Clubs which we offer four times a year. These clubs provide a great opportunity for students to learn something new, in a fun and engaging environment. Some of our most popular clubs include: Robotics, Team Sports, Cooking, and STEM.

McGinnis Woods will be open for after school students on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 22-24th. After care will not be available on Thanksgiving Day or Friday, November 26 in observance of Thanksgiving. If you would like your child to attend during the break, please email elementaryschool@mcginniswoods.org.

My Reptile Guy Visits McGinnis Woods



On Wednesday, October 27th, the Kindergarten, K/1 and First Grade children enjoyed an in-house field trip with My Reptile Guy. We were given the exciting opportunity to see and touch different types of reptiles from all over the world! We experienced a visit with a caiman, a blue-tongue skink, a bearded dragon, a Rhino Green Iguana, 3 different pythons and 2 tortoises racing against a turtle. We learned about where each of these animals live, what they eat and how often they need to eat, and the unique things they do to survive. Our students were very brave and gentle as they greeted all of the reptiles. It was an all-around educational and intriguing visit from My Reptile Guy. We hope to see him again sometime soon.

Jr. Beta Club and Student Council Updates

Our Jr. Beta Club has been hard at work researching service projects for the upcoming year. We are so excited about our winter project of donating gently used books to Sheltering Books, an Atlanta based charity. Sheltering Books will be donating our books to schools in Tennessee which were impacted by recent flooding. Please be on the lookout for more information about donating. Thank you again for your support as we teach our students to care for and serve others in our community.

Be on the lookout for our student run school store, where you can get everyday school supplies as well as novelty items.



Student Council Sponsors Red Ribbon Week



We have had a very busy start to the school year in Student Council. The students ran great campaigns. The officers for the 2021-2022 school year are Benny Hamann (President), Avery Anderson (Vice President), Leon Schultz (Secretary), and Zuha Shaik (Treasurer).

Once the votes were counted, the real work began! The first order of business for this newly elected group was planning for our annual Red Ribbon Week. This year, the theme was "Drug Free Looks Like Me". Our officers chose to hold a trivia contest and a variety of fun spirit-theme days which included a wear red day, hat day, pajama day, and team jersey day. The week concluded with Halloween parties and costumes which showed and reminded us that drugs are scary.

Student Council, alongside the middle school, helped organize the food drive for The Place. Thanks to our generous families we were able to collect nine large boxes filled with canned and boxed goods for Thanksgiving meals. This project would not have been possible without the generous donations from our amazing McGinnis Woods Families. Thank You!

Additionally, Student Council organized the first Chick-Fil-A order in day on November 5th. Over 100 students participated in this. Way to go Student Council for all your hard work in making this happen!



Middle School Happenings



Middle school students work hard every day, learning a variety of information through reading, writing, discussing, debating, creating projects, experimenting, questioning, and doing hands-on learning.

But it's not just all classwork in the middle school! Our students are also hard at work in our community as well. We had an amazing turnout of students that participated in the themed days for Red Ribbon Week, promoting a drug free lifestyle. Our students also care about those who are less fortunate in our greater community and did something about it by running and donating food to our recent food drive benefitting The Place. The middle schoolers decided to participate in Operation Christmas Child

which sends shoeboxes filled with small items such as toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to children all around the world! Students will spend time packing the boxes to be sent.

After all that work it's nice for the middle school students to relax and let off steam with friends. Students enjoy monthly socials and events put on by the Middle School Social committee, which is made up of students in 5th-8th grade. This month we are combining the packing of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child with a hot chocolate bar one day after school. This should be a fun way to spend time with each other, enjoy some treats, and help others in our global community all at once.

Robotics at McGinnis Woods

The Robotics Team here at McGinnis Woods has been busily engaged in working on the newest First LEGO League Challenge of the year: Cargo Connect. All of the students have been building robots with their teams. Once the robots are built, the programming begins! The robots have engines that can perform simple tasks like moving up and down, sideways, around, backwards, along with using sensors.

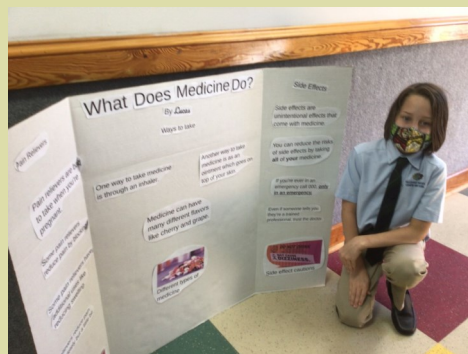
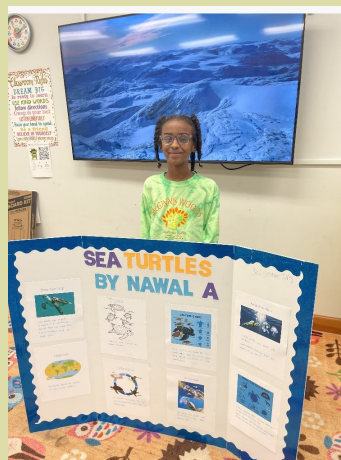
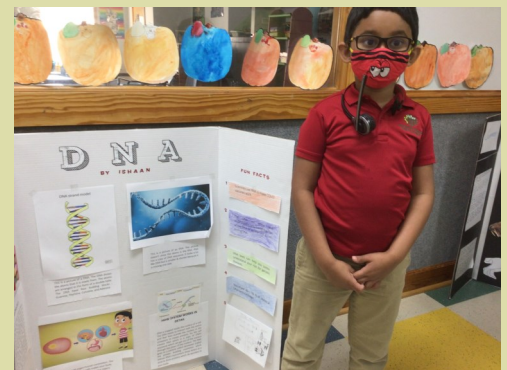
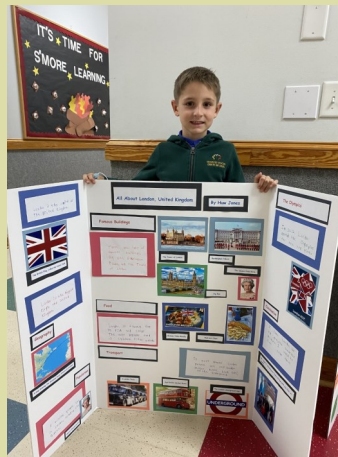
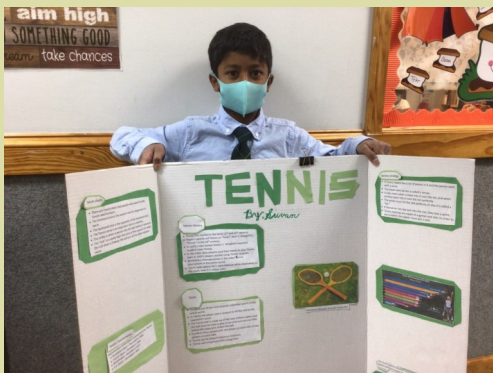
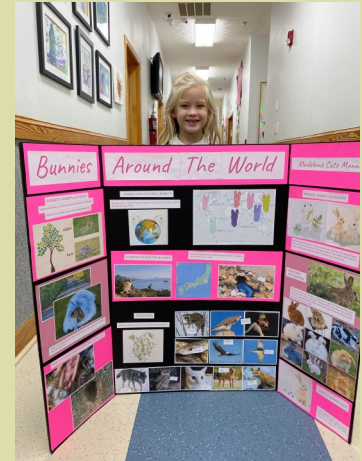
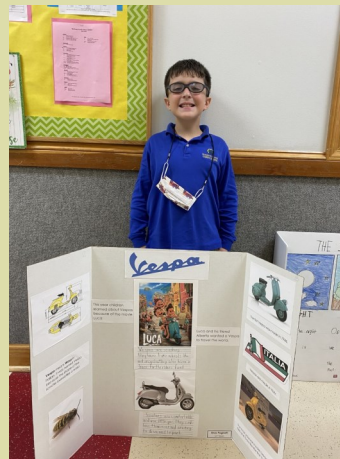
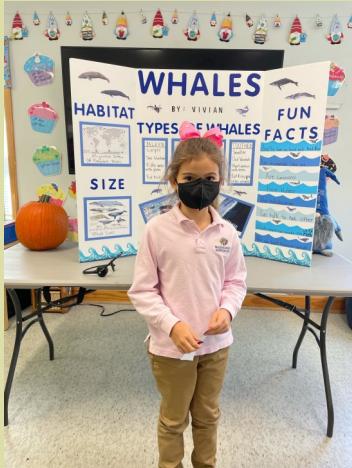
There are several challenges on the "Cargo Connect" course that the students can try to complete to earn points. Some examples from the course are delivering a package to the front door, closing a bridge, moving a freight car on railroad tracks, and unloading cargo from the back of an airplane to name a few. Each task can earn points, and the team with the most points wins! The original team of 10 students will be competing in a regional event in December against other schools. It will be an exciting event to compete in and also to watch!



Spectacular Project Showcase

Project Showcase Week is here! Project Showcase is one of our exciting annual projects that students in 1st – 4th grades participate in. The students are responsible for choosing a research topic in the categories of Social Science, Talents, Visual Arts or Animal Studies. Once they have chosen a topic they research and present their teachers with a rough draft and/or notecards. The information is reviewed and returned so that the project can continue onto the next phase. Ultimately, the students are responsible for a final copy paper, a tri-fold project board and an oral presentation.

The school hallways have been filled with projects about giraffes, whales, layers of the Earth, Peru, Alexander Hamilton and so much more. It is a fabulous week of learning in class, and on ClassFusion. Strolling down the halls at school is an educational journey, too!



4th Annual Technology Fair Success

Our Middle School students recently completed their annual Technology Fair project and we were so impressed with the variety and quality of the projects! The Technology Fair is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore, innovate and create within one of eight available categories.

In addition to demonstrating their project for a panel of judges, students also prepare presentations to summarize resources used and lessons learned. This year, we saw projects ranging from chess games written in the Python programming language to artificial intelligence capable of detecting if a subject is wearing a face mask.

A complete list of our winners from each category is below. Those students that placed 1st and 2nd will have the opportunity to represent McGinnis Woods at the Forsyth County Technology Fair in the early Spring and to possibly advance to the state competition in 2022. Congratulations to our winners!

Animation

Elsa Zhang - 1st Place

Jackson Anderson - 2nd Place

Avery Anderson - Honorable Mention

Digital Game Design

Marty Ho - 1st Place

Simon Triulzi - 2nd Place

Ben Reiter - Honorable Mention

Digital Photo Production

Joey Musolino - 1st

Aaron Dols - 2nd

Yael Veneziano - Honorable Mention

Graphic Design

Benny Hamann - 1st Place

Afsheen Mohammad - 2nd Place

Sophia Stambolsky - Honorable Mention

Internet Applications

Alaina Florez - 1st Place

Aashna Patel - 2nd Place

Mobile Apps

Nuzhat Shaik - 1st Place

Robotics

Hunter Nobile - 1st Place

Ben Tseng - 2nd Place

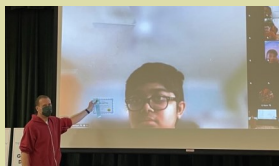
Mahit Mallappagari - Honorable Mention

Video Production

Joseph Gallivan - 1st Place

Sam Pate - 2nd Place

Kevin Doyle - Honorable Mention



Pictures from Around the School

