

McGinnis Woods Buzz



April 2023, Volume 17, Issue 1



*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

4/10	Wildcat Wear Day
4/11-4/12	Career Days
4/12	2nd Grade Recorder Concert
4/13	GISA Chess Tournament Kindergarten Field Trip to Warbington Farms
4-14	Pre-K Field Trip to Magic School Bus
4/17-4/21	Standardized Testing Week
4/17-4/21	Student Council and Jr. Beta Club Toiletry and Book Drive Week
4/20	Art Show 4:00pm-7:00pm
4/24	2nd Grade Field Trip to Warbington Farms 5th-8th Field Trip to World of Coke Museum
4/25-4/27	2nd and 4th Grades Fire Safety Guest Speakers
4/28-4/30	Frozen Jr. Performances

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



Spring is here and our school year continues to fly by. This week we were excited to welcome the students back after a well-deserved break, so that we could buckle down and seize the days that remain in the 2022-2023 school year.

It is exciting to see our newly adopted school name and logo appear on different items throughout the school. One parent emailed me this photo of her daughter proudly displaying our new monogram on her school uniform. It looks so fresh and modern yet represents the excellent school program and community we have created during the past 24 years.

Standardized Testing Week is April 17-April 21. The students in 2nd-8th grade will be testing each morning and will complete a battery of tests known as ERB CTP5 tests. The tests vary by grade level and cover many content areas including Math, Language Arts, and Analytical Reasoning. The information gleaned from these test results will be useful as we continue to improve our school curriculum and prepare our students for their futures.

Our April and May calendars are packed with wonderful activities and unique opportunities for our students. Be sure to keep the calendars and our school App handy for quick reference. Next week we will host a Book Fair, Art Show and Spring Carnival. The following week the McGinnis Woods premier of Frozen will take the stage in the gym. 1st-8th graders will participate in overnight trips beginning in May and will visit amazing venues including The Consolidated Mines in Dahlenega, Desoto Caverns in Alabama, The Georgia Aquarium, Nature's Classroom in Mentone, Alabama, Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama and Washington DC. Our well-rounded students have much to learn and experience over the coming weeks.

Please take a few minutes to enjoy this copy of the Buzz and learn more about our school.

Happy spring,

Ms. Mary

Parent Association Update

Hello McGinnis Woods Wildcats!



We hope everyone had a fantastic spring break! Please enjoy the updates below and get in touch if you have any questions or feedback!

Wildcat Wear

We started the year with our Wildcat Wear sale and there was overwhelming interest. Thank you so much for your orders and support! We have enjoyed seeing all of the Wildcat Pride around the school! Don't forget that students can wear their spirit wear on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month.

Our online store has countless styles and options to choose from, and they are constantly being updated! You can order Wildcat Wear anytime by visiting our online store: <https://1stplace.sale/25896>

5th Annual Wildcat Fund

We have nearly completed all of our projects from the 5th Annual Wildcat Fund! Here is a brief recap:

- Our new sound, lighting and special effects equipment will be making their debut during Frozen Jr!
- The nature activity kits and outdoor stations have arrived and will be so much fun!
- Our robotics and coding kits have already been put to good use by Ms. Liz during STEM class!
- Our new laser engraver is now setup in the Innovation Lab and should be in production soon!
- Our padded sideline chairs are in the gym and the look amazing!
- The greenhouse and raised garden bed have been installed and we can't wait to start growing!
- The acoustic panels for the gym and wifi for the outdoor classroom are both coming soon!



Thank you so very much to all of our generous donors! You made amazing things possible and we're excited that our students get to enjoy these incredible additions to our school!

Teacher Appreciation Week

We celebrated our amazing teachers and staff in March with the "Our Teachers Rock" Teacher Appreciation Week theme. It was an exciting week and each person was treated to a themed hoodie, a delicious breakfast, a personalized Hall of Fame album from their students, yummy desserts, gift cards provided by our amazing families and a fantastic lunch to wrap up the week. We also had so many lucky raffle winners thanks to your willingness to purchase tickets!



cial!

We love our teachers and staff members every single day, but we especially enjoy the opportunity to celebrate them for an entire week. Thank you to all of our volunteers and families for making this week extra special!

Get In Touch

Are you interested in becoming a part of the PA Board? We'd love to hear from you! 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



We are very excited to announce that McGinnis Woods Preschool recently received word of a new 5 year National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation following our two day January 2023 NAEYC accreditor visit. Being a NAEYC accredited school is significant as the NAEYC standards are rigorous and impactful. We are very proud of our excellent team of teachers and administrators who are devoted to caring for our young preschoolers each day!

Spring is here and we have BIG plans in the Preschool. We kicked off Spring with our annual Preschool Spring Egg Hunt and Book Fair social. April will bring Earth Day and the planting of our new garden boxes. Our threes and fours cannot wait to get their hands dirty planting flowers, fruits, and veggies for us all to enjoy! Each class will also get the opportunity to decorate a bird house that will then be hung on our nature trail. Our little ones continue to learn so much through our Frog Street Curriculum hands-on activities.

Our Infant and Junior Toddler classes have been extra busy with our little ones. The babies have been working hard on sitting up, crawling, walking, and eating table foods. Their favorite activities include singing, dancing, painting, and reading books. We love watching them learn and grow each day!

In our Toddler classrooms we are potty training, going on nature walks to collecting flowers and spot bugs in our science center, and practicing fine/ gross motor skills by dancing with scarves, lacing emotion faces, painting with shaving creams, playing with playdough, and so much more.



We have some smart little Cookies in our Threes classes. They have been extra busy practicing letters sounds, writing their names in their individualized name books, and listening to stories during their literacy lessons. During their math lesson they write numbers, practice counting, demonstrate position words, hunt for shapes around the room, and sort items by their attributes. They especially love fine/ gross motor time that includes playdough, puffy paint, and hole punching.

The children are also busy learning Spanish with Ms. Pilar, going to Library with Ms. Leah, having Art Class with Ms. Tanya, and Moving and Learning with Mr. Jarred! We have so many more exciting activities planned in the coming months, so be sure to check your child's backpack for news of coming events.



Wildcat Chat



Our Spring Sports are really heating up just like the weather. Our Track and Field team, led by Ms. Lisa Giri and Ms. Jaime, is showing that McGinnis Woods has some real athletes. Our team competes in many events including shot put, discus, girls and boys hurdles, girls and boys short and distance runs and relay races. In the month of March alone we have received multiple first place marks across every competition. Our girls relay team has constantly ranked among the fastest at our competitions and we have had some really impressive solo performances as well. We will be moving into more advanced competitions in April.



This year, we are competing in a new MAAC League sport, Flag Football. Our Flag Football Team is currently sitting at 3-3, but after a slow start has become the highest scoring team in the league and is getting hot just in time for the playoffs. The team rolled into Spring Break with a 31-0 win over Arbor Montessori School and will be the third seed when competing for the Championship during the week of April 17th during this inaugural year! The championship games will be quite challenging, but we know that we are up for the competition under the able coaching of Mr. Josh and Mr. Ryan.



Go Wildcats!

Science Olympiad Competition Success!



Our McGinnis Woods Science Olympiad Team had been practicing since September 2022 to prepare for the big competition held on March 11, 2023. Our team had 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade students. Anishka Potharaju, Luke Espinel, and Leul Takele were our third grade members. Jaivik Divvela, Aarya Jayshwal, Noam Kayakov, Chetana Polineni, Ryan Skala, and Alicia Wester were our 4th grade members. Zuhayr Ali, Rushil Tatipaka and Leelai Takele were our fifth grade members. Our team has been practicing some STEM events along with studying for the STEM related trivia events. Some of our STEM events are the egg drop, paper rockets, gram-a-gram, bridge building, water rockets,

and barge building. The STEM Trivia events include the Deep Blue Sea, Starry Starry Night, Weather or Not, and Disease Detectives.

We had a great day! Our team worked hard, stayed focus and competed well! All teams said they felt they did a good job, and we are so proud of all of their hard work preparing for this day. The team placed in the top 10 in several categories like Egg Drop, Metric Mastery, Paper Rockets, Grab a Gram, Weather or Not to name a few. There were 29 schools there, so the competition was fierce! Many thanks go to our coaches, Ms. Wendy and Ms. Veena, and to the parents of our team!

Middle School Happenings



The Middle School always stays busy throughout the entire year, however the second semester seems to bring a rush of excitement and activities. Our Social Committee met and voted on fun after-school social events. The Middle School students have enjoyed a Just Dance Social and a Talent Show/Bingo Social. Our Talent Show showcased some wonderful abilities that students were able to share with their peers. In April we will have a movie social and in May we will have our annual Campfire!

In Middle School we have also enjoyed some wonderful field trips. We have ventured to the College Football Hall of Fame, The GA Bar, and The Breman Museum. During these trips we learned some fun football history and trivia, as well as how our judicial system works (as well as acting out an entertaining case in our mock trial). We also were able to learn about the Holocaust and hear the heart wrenching story of a second generation Holocaust survivor.

As May approaches, the excitement is building for our Middle School overnight trips. Our 8th grade will be venturing to Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia through Close Up with Ms. Nicole to learn about civics and the role citizens play in our government. Our 5th-7th grade students are extremely excited for the overnight trip to Space Camp! We cannot wait to learn more about Space and experience some of the trainings that astronauts go through.



GISA Spelling Bee



On Tuesday, February 28th, Shviti Chilkamari, one of our 6th grade students, traveled to Mount de Sales Academy to compete in round 2 of the Georgia Independent School Association Middle School Spelling Bee. Earlier this year Shviti won the McGinnis Woods Spelling Bee and competed in GISA's round 1 written Bee before advancing to round 2. We are very proud of Shviti and all of her hard work in preparing for the challenging competition. She represented us well!



Student Council and Jr. Beta Club News



The Student Council has been on the job! After taking many different requests from students, we were able to help secure a lemonade machine which the students enjoy during lunch on Fridays. This is a wonderful treat that is enjoyed throughout our school. Student Council also sponsored a Kindness Week Poster contest throughout the school. Each class (PreK-8th) created a poster centered around kindness. Each poster was judged by Student Council representatives resulting in some amazing winners.

Student Council activities around the school have been endless including Ice Cream Days, the ever popular Candy Grams on Valentine's Day and even a celebration of National Oreo Day. We have been busy!

The Jr. Beta Club has been actively working in our community and our school. Most recently we took a trip to North Fulton Community Charities in Roswell to explore opportunities to partner with them. We discovered that there are a lot of needs in our area and decided to partner with our Student Council Representatives to run a Toilet Paper/Book Drive to help meet one of the needs. During the month of April, we are collecting toothbrushes, bars of soap, toothpaste, and gently used books to donate to North Fulton Community Charities.



During our visit we also discovered that in the summer months, when children are home from school it becomes particularly complicated to keep snacks in the pantry for kids. So our team has geared up to help solve this challenge. In May we will collect fun snacks to donate to NFCC to help stock their shelves for the summer.



It has been exciting discovering some of our community's tangible needs and designing ways for the McGinnis Woods School community to help. Stay tuned...there's so much more to come!

Frozen Jr. Coming to the McGinnis Woods Stage!



We are excited to let you know that tickets for our musical, **FROZEN JR.**, are now on sale! Our 34-member cast has been working hard since the beginning of the school year to make this exciting, magical tale come to life!

The performance dates are:

Friday, April 28th - 6:00pm

Saturday, April 29th - 11:00am & 2:00pm

Sunday, April 30th - 2:00pm**

**Sunday Special Event: We invite members of the audience to come dressed as their favorite Frozen characters so they can meet the cast and tour the stage after the show!

To purchase tickets, please visit our online box office by clicking the link below:

<https://showtix4u.com/events/mcginniswoods>

We hope you will join us and encourage you to grab your tickets before they sell out! Thank you for supporting our drama program and we can't wait to share our magic with you!

Discovery Clubs



McGinnis Woods Discovery Clubs are 6-week long clubs that are offered 4 times a year. We are now in our fourth and final session of this year's Discovery Clubs. Our wonderful teachers come up with more and more creative clubs every time! Our clubs change every session and can include Debate Club, Battle Bots and Robotics Fun, Jr. Robotics, Cooking, Jr Cooking, Volleyball, Football, Cheer, Lab Rats, Cartooning, and many more!

Our Pre-K5 teacher, Ms. Abby, explores different slime recipes each week with her club members during SLIME TIME. Students even made an edible slime, and they get to slime Ms. Abby in their last session!

Our 1st Grade Cubs teacher, Ms. Isabelle, and her SLUMBER PARTY CRAFT CLUB members make cute and crafty items that are perfect for a sleepover with friends. Students have made bedazzled mirrors, adorable sleep masks, and even decorated overnight bags!

Ms. Francella, our school counselor, and her club members play games, have story time and fun conversations, while developing healthy friendships during FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE. Ms. Francella and her members will be celebrating their last meeting with a friendship party!

Our gifted Art Teacher, Ms. Tanya, and her CERAMICS CLUB members are having a blast while experimenting with various clay projects including making bowls and dishes on the banding wheels, making pinch pot creatures and other trinkets.

CHESS CLUB members and Amy Williams have been meeting weekly and working hard on their strategies and tactics to checkmate their opponents. Amy and 11 members are heading to the GISA Chess Tournament at Strong Rock Christian School on Thursday, April 13th. Good luck!



Parents Night Out is Fun For All!



Have you been looking for a great babysitter so that you can run some errands, do some shopping or enjoy a quiet dinner with your special someone? Then look no further. Our next Parents Night Out is scheduled for Friday, April 21st from 5:30 - 10:00 pm. Plan to join Ms. Abby, Ms. Amy, and Ms. Kayla for an evening packed with fun and excitement. The night will kick off with a delicious dinner and dessert followed by fun crafts, outside time and gym games, and ending with a movie and popcorn. Students may come dressed in their pajamas and bring a sleeping bag to snuggle in when the movie is shown.

The Preschool is also hosting Parents Night Out. They will enjoy dinner, fun and games, and end their night with a movie, too. The children may wear their pajamas so that they are ready for bed when mom and dad pick them up for the night.

Spaces fill up quickly for this fun night so be sure to sign up today! The cost for the evening is \$40 per child with a discounted rate of \$20 for siblings.



And the Word of the Month is....



April's Character Word of the Month is *Humility*. Students are learning that humility is defined as putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve. Students are being taught the importance of and meaning of humility throughout the month during morning announcements and in class.

Teachers will identify exceptional students who exhibit great character traits and are role models throughout the month. One student per class will be chosen as the Citizen of the Month and will enjoy a pizza lunch on April 25th. Five students per class will be recognized for demonstrating humility. These special students will be recognized and rewarded with a special treat on the morning announcements.

A Big Thanks to Our McGinnis Woods Safety Patrol!



Our Safety Patrol members are a select group of Fourth Graders that are committed to providing a safe school environment for all students at McGinnis Woods School. Our members of Safety Patrol must remain in good academic standing in all subject areas and model good behavioral choices.

The primary purpose of the program is to enhance the safety of our students. In addition, this promotes the development of leadership skills and good citizenship qualities. A safety patrol's job is to model for students the safety rules that have been taught in the classroom and to assist students in safe transitions throughout the building during morning and afternoon car-pool.

Our Safety Members include: Gabby DeSalvo, Jaivik Divvela, Kennedy Dominick, Padraig Gallivan, Aarya

Jayshwal, Noam Kayakov, Meredith Monnell, Mishka Patel, Ayaan Shaik, Jordan Shechter, Ryan Skala, and Evie Stambolsky.



2nd Graders Visit Cartersville



In March our 2nd Graders traveled to The Tellus Science Museum to explore the world of Science. They boarded the bus early and headed to Cartersville. Once they arrived at the museum, they started their visit in the Fossil Gallery and explored the world of dinosaurs, posed with a 9 foot Megladon jaw and put their hands in a dinosaur footprint. Then they set off to the Mineral Gallery and discovered all the gems and minerals that can be found here in Georgia. The students learned so much in the Science in Motion Gallery where they explored the history of transportation and space exploration vehicles. Their last stop before lunch was the planetarium where they discovered information about the night sky and saw a short film called The Accidental Astronauts. The 2nd Graders enjoyed lunch in

the café and ended the day in The Big Backyard exhibit. There they explored Simple Machines and saw the traveling exhibit, How People Make Things. The kids loved creating and printing paper models and cars, too. They had a great day and are looking forward to their next adventure off campus!





Ms. Tanya Makes Learning About Art Amazing!



Tanya Sinke has been our art teacher for almost four years. She has been drawing since she was two years old! She would adorn her parent's walls and baseboards (among other things!) with little drawings of mostly cats. Her artwork would also fill the blank end pages of books and thankfully she had patient parents who would give her blank paper to draw on instead. She's always admired the art in picture books too, even trying to replicate some of them on opposite pages. Some of her favorite illustrators are: Beatrix Potter, Charles Santore, Munro Leaf, and Maurice Sendak. Her love of drawing from observation began when she was very young, sketching friend's or relative's faces with any opportunity she had. Experimenting with any and all art medias she was allowed to use, Ms. Tanya always knew she wanted to be an artist. Teachers and professors in her family, as well as a variety of favorite teachers throughout her years in school, inspired her love of learning and to want to teach and inspire our youth as well.

Having attended SCAD in both Savannah and Atlanta, Ms. Tanya holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration, with a minor in drawing from: The Savannah College of Art and Design. She has taught art through several schools for eight years prior to joining the McGinnis Woods family. She adores sharing her love of all art forms with her students! It brings her joy to learn new kinds of art to share when her students inquire about them. She also has a huge appreciation for both music and dance. She sang in chorus for eight years as a youth and still loves to sing! She took jazz dance classes as a child, did cheerleading for a year in middle school, and later joined the SCAD Stingers Dance team in college.

Ms. Tanya was born in West Palm Beach, Florida. She moved to Georgia with her family when she was three, and has resided in Georgia ever since. She is married to her husband Troy and has two children; a son, Angel, who is a freshman at GA State University, and a seven year old daughter, Adelena. Ms. Tanya also loves animals! She has a dog: Delilah, a parrot: Wally, some fish, and she will soon have a kitten! She's had cats for most of her life and is excited for the coming family member! When not creating or sharing art, Ms. Tanya adores doing yoga, hiking, travel, and spending time with her family, especially in nature.

Mr. Ryan Makes PE and Fitness Fun!



Ryan King is the fabulous Physical Education teacher and athletic Director at McGinnis Woods. He always has a smile on his face and an encouraging word for everyone he meets.

Mr. Ryan was born in Street, England before moving to the United States at the age of 2. Since then, Ryan grew up in Georgia, joined the United States Air Force, and became a PE Teacher and Athletic Director. Ryan attended four years of college at Kennesaw State University where he earned a degree in Education and Sports Management and also a degree in Business and Air Transportation through the United States Air Force.

Ryan spends a lot of his free time hanging out with his beautiful wife, Riley, and their small army of cats. Ryan and Riley met in Middle School and she is currently managing a veterinary hospital, so they constantly find themselves talking about animals and children outside of work. They love to take any opportunity they can to travel and aim to travel the world.

Ryan loves many things about his job, but obviously working with the kids is what makes him the happiest. Mr. Ryan feels that the journey the kids make in their physical abilities is super fun to watch. He also enjoys seeing the children learn more about their personalities through games and watching their confidence grow after each new skill and accomplishment they achieve.

Meet the First Grade Teachers



Our amazing First Grade Teachers are taking the Cubs and Falcons to new educational heights, while making learning as fun as it can possibly be! Here is information about our dedicated First Grade Team.

The 1st Grade Falcons lead teacher is Joshua Reiter. Mr. Josh was born and raised in the frozen nether-regions known as: Buffalo, NY. Mr. Josh complete two undergraduate degrees in Human Communication and English Literature from Fredonia State University of NY. Shortly thereafter, he decided that his true calling was teaching, so he went back to school at Mercer University in 2003 and completed his Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Josh is married to Jill who also teaches. They have three amazing children, Violet who is in high school, Ben, a 7th grader at McGinnis Woods and Max who is in 3rd grade here. Mr. Josh is loving every minute of his 21st year of employment at McGinnis Woods School and hopes to be here for 21 more years!

Roshen Jacob is the tremendous assistant teacher for the Falcons. Ms. Roshen is enjoying her second year at McGinnis Woods School. She was born and raised in India. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Science in Physics and a Masters in Science in Electronics. She moved to the U.S. seventeen years ago. She lives with her husband, Jacob, and their two children. Their daughter, Varsha, is at Georgia Tech, and, their son, Rohan, is an eighth grader at Webb Bridge Middle. She loves teaching and working with the First Grade Falcons.

Isabelle Hanzlik is the lead teacher of the First Grade Cubs. Isabelle is a Georgia Native and graduated from Kennesaw State. She is getting married up in the mountains this summer to the love-of-her-life, Ryan. She has two kittens named Olive and Gumbo who love to play hard and nap hard. Ms. Isabelle's love of animals is showcased in the Cubs woodland-themed classroom. The Cubs are thriving and loving learning with their teachers!

Carolyn Arnold is the assistant teacher in the Cubs' class. She is a graduate of Kennesaw State and has many years of experience working with students. Carolyn has been married to her husband Rick for 32 years. They have two boys, Bryce and Noah, who also attend Kennesaw State. Her youngest son has been asked to join the Georgia United Men's Gymnastics Team. Carolyn loves working with all of these cute Cubs.

This year has been a tremendous success so far with such highlights as donating Build-A-Bears to the Children's Wish Foundation, going to a Native American Pow Wow, and getting excited about mining for gold on our upcoming, overnight field trip. It has been, and continues to be, a good time to be a First Grader at McGinnis Woods!

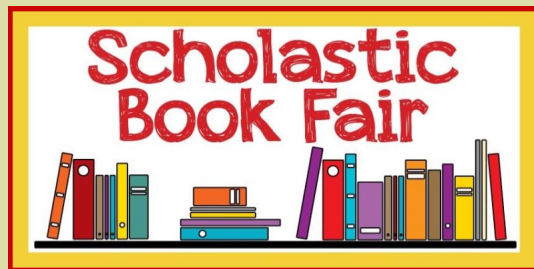


Scholastic Book Fair

Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair is just around the corner! Come and visit the library starting April 21st -28th. On Monday, April 24, McGinnis Woods students will create their book wish lists. Some of the popular titles like Star Wars, Pete the cat, Dog man, and so many more will be arriving soon and our students can't wait to get their hands on them. Our classroom teachers will also create classroom wish lists with hopes of receiving new selections for their class libraries.

All funds raised from the book fair will assist with purchasing books and other materials for our library and classrooms. We work to keep popular titles in our collection and often purchase student requests for the library during the fairs.

Thank you for your continued support and encouraging your child to read. We are so proud of our amazing readers!



Have You Registered Your Child for Summer Camp Yet?



We are looking forward to an exciting, Sunsational Summer here at McGinnis Woods! Our Sunsational Summer Camp is filled with exciting themes and field trips, caring counselors, STEM, Classes, bi-weekly water park times, and much more. We have many amazing art projects planned and exciting academic and specialty camps to keep our minds learning throughout the summer.

We are traveling off campus again for field trips and we are super excited! We have trips planned to fun places including Stars and Strikes, SeaQuest, Tiny Towne, Cumming Aquatic Center, and so many more.

We will offer many Specialty and Academic Camps that offer a variety of educational ways to sharpen your skills and expand your minds during the summer. Some of these exciting Camps include several different culinary options, Fun with STEM, Pottery Classes, Robotics, and many art options. You do not want to miss out on any of the fun during our Sunsational Summer Camp and we hope to see you this summer! We have sent home Summer Camp information to your student, and you can find more information on our website at www.mcginiswoods.org.



Pictures from Around the School

