

McGinnis Woods Buzz



December 2023, Volume 17, Issue 2



*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/19 -1/2	Winter Break
12/25 - 12/26	Merry Christmas McGinnis Woods Closed
12/28	Lee Bryan "That Puppet Guy"
1/1	Happy New Year!
1/2	Teacher Workday After School Only
1/3	Welcome Back! Classes Resume 3rd and 4th In House Field Trip High Touch High Tech
1/4	5th-8th Field Trip Atlanta History Center
1/5	4th Field Trip Fernbank
1/9	K-4th Georgia Ensemble Performance of Junie B Jones
1/10	Girls and Boys Basketball at Howard School

McGinnis Woods Mission Statement

*Our mission is to provide
superior academics
through hands-on
approaches, which foster
self confidence and self
esteem that inspire a life-
long love of learning.*

The latest buzz . . .

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A Message From Ms. Mary



As we prepare to celebrate McGinnis Woods School's 25th birthday in 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible journey we have been on as a school and as a community. Over the past quarter-century, our school has grown and flourished, becoming a beacon of educational excellence. I would like to take a moment to reflect on our remarkable achievements and the milestones that have shaped us into the institution we are today.

Since 1999, our students have consistently demonstrated their academic prowess, earning countless Awards. These accolades recognize the hard work and dedication of our students and the unwavering support provided by our exceptional educators and parents. It is a testament to the nurturing environment we have created at McGinnis Woods, where students are encouraged to pursue their passions and strive for greatness.

Beyond academic achievements, we celebrate our graduates as they pursue their dreams and make a positive impact in the world. Our alumni are a testament to the transformative power of education and a source of inspiration for current and future students.

One of the hallmarks of McGinnis Woods is our diverse and inclusive community. Our school is a true melting pot, a place where our students learn from one another and develop a global mindset that prepares them for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

Lastly, I would be remiss not to mention our beautiful campus, which stands as a proud symbol of our heritage and tremendous growth. This remarkable space serves as a vibrant hub of learning, creativity, and community. It is where our students and staff come together to explore, discover, and forge lifelong connections. We are grateful for the amazing opportunity to nurture young minds within this inspiring setting.

As we celebrate our 25th birthday, let us not only reflect on our past achievements but also look ahead to our future. McGinnis Woods remains committed to providing a holistic education that prepares our students to become compassionate global citizens, equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate an ever-changing world.

To the dedicated parents, passionate educators, and ambitious students who have contributed to the success of our school over the years, I extend my heartfelt appreciation. Together, we have built an institution that has transformed lives and shaped futures. Here's to the next 25 years of excellence, innovation, and boundless possibilities!

Please plan to join us on Saturday, January 20 from 1:00pm-3:00pm for our annual Open House and from 4:00pm-6:00pm at a reception in the school gym to celebrate our 25th anniversary!

With gratitude,
Ms. Mary

Parent Association Update

Hello McGinnis Woods Wildcats!



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>

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Our fantastic Parent Association Volunteers hosted a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for our teachers on October 30 just to let them know how much their commitment to our students and families is appreciated. The breakfast was a wonderful treat for everyone!

6th Annual Wildcat Fund

Thank you so very much to all of our generous donors! We raised over \$30,000 during our fund drive! You made amazing things possible and we're excited that our students get to enjoy these incredible additions to our school! Currently we are in the process of ordering and installing Wildcat Fund Wishlist Items.

- The acoustic panels for the gym and wifi for the outdoor classroom are both coming soon. (These items will conclude the 5th Annual Wildcat Fund purchases).
- Playground updates and new structures for the Preschool and Elementary/Middle School Playgrounds have been installed
- Class Set of Marty The Robots and Curriculum
- Additional Lego Robotics equipment
- Solar Water Pump for the greenhouse and raised beds
- Gelli Plates and light boxes
- Portable Sports Seating



Holiday Shoppe Success

Our annual Holiday Shoppe was an amazing time for our school. Thank you to Joey Page and Aimee Nobile, co-chairs, and their team of cheerful volunteers for the countless hours of planning, ordering, pricing, displaying, assisting shoppers, wrapping and making the shoppe magical! Thanks, too, to our Student Council officers who greeted shoppers with hot cocoa and cookies during our Holiday Shoppe Preview!

Get In Touch

Thank you to this year's Parent Association Board Members:

Dale Emel, President

Chen Cai, Vice President

Nsharra Gross, Secretary

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 email at pa@mcginniswoods.org



Preschool Corner



Winter is here and we have BIG plans in the Preschool. The holiday elves have been visiting our classrooms and swinging through the hallways.

All classrooms have explored how children around the world participate in the holiday season. The children enjoyed talking about ways to travel around the world to visit, Germany, Japan, and Sweden. We learned how families celebrate the holidays through their different cultures and traditions.

The Infants are changing before our eyes and growing so quickly. They are participating in more outdoor activities to enhance the development of their gross motor skills. They are also mastering 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 they are working with the Frog Street curriculum and learning about opposites. They are busy learning new vocabulary words, sign language, and pulling scarves in and out of buckets. We are also focusing on potty training, going on nature walks, and practicing fine/ gross motor skills by painting with shaving creams, playing with playdough, and so much more.



Our Threes and Pre-K Prep programs have been extra busy practicing letters sounds, printing their names in their individualized name books, and learning new vocabulary words. During their math lessons they write numbers, practice counting by 2's, demonstrate position words, hunt for shapes in our outdoor classroom, and practice AB patterns. They have also dissected the parts of a flower and discussed why the garden was dying during the changing seasons. The children had fun pulling the Spring garden and planting winter vegetables.

The children benefit weekly through their many specials. They are learning Spanish with Ms. Pilar, visiting and exploring the Library in the elementary school with Ms. Leah, creating during Art Class with Ms. Tanya, and moving to and singing songs with Mr. Bryant. More preschool activities can be found on our monthly calendar found at the Preschool front desk.



Wildcat Chat

Hello Wildcats!



We are off to another incredible year for our McGinnis Woods Sports teams and this year we already have 1 Championship trophy to boast about! So far we have completed our Volleyball and Soccer seasons and are gliding through our Basketball Season. This year we were fortunate enough to have both a Boys and Girls' Basketball team and the results have been incredible! We will have one more season for McGinnis Woods Sports this year in the Spring and that will include Flag Football and Track and Field competitions. Sign ups for those sports will be in January.

This year, the McGinnis Woods Wildcats Volleyball team came in 1st place in our division and secured a home playoff tournament on which the ladies went on to win every match and win the Championship! That 1st place trophy is being displayed nicely in the front office for now before it is moved to our well-established trophy case. The year will also be placed on the Volleyball banner in the back of the gym. led by Coach Carolyn Arnold and Coach Lisa Giri the girls took on schools from higher divisions and different skill levels but never gave up on themselves or each other. This year we had one 8th grader, Rose Mehraban, whose senior leadership will be missed but left a positive impact on the rising team. This McGinnis Woods Wildcat team should be competitive for years to come!



"Victory isn't defined by wins or losses. It is defined by effort. If you can truthfully say, 'I did the best I could, I gave everything I had,' then you're a winner." - Wolfgang Schadler. This quote sums up our Boys Soccer season this year. The team led by Coach Roger Gallivan, had only 4 returning players from our 2022 season which put us behind the 8-ball of where other teams in our division were. This Wildcat team, despite having this disadvantage, played hard and grew every week and were at their very best by the end of the season. Making the playoffs as the 4-seed we travelled to Annunciation Day to take on the eventual league champion in the 1st round but were the only team to score against them all season. So while the record this year may not look as the boys wanted it to, they have nothing to be disappointed in as they are set up to be very successful for years to follow.

The Boys and Girls Basketball teams are consisting of almost entirely new players to the game but that hasn't stopped them from learning, growing, and competing each week. Each team has only played 3 games so far this season but the growth in each of those games has been astonishing and they are hitting their stride right as we go into the holiday break. Our schedule for January will be jam packed with home games and divisional matchups which should be great to watch so make sure you come out and support our Basketball Teams!



Go Wildcats!

Discovery Clubs



McGinnis Woods Discovery Clubs are 6-week long clubs that are offered 4 times a year. We just completed our 2nd session of this year's Discovery Clubs and will start new clubs when we kick off 2024! Our clubs change each session and often include Robotics, Jr. Robotics, Cooking, Chess Club, Slime Time, Friendship Circle, and many more.

During Session 2, Our PreK-5B Teacher, Ms. Abby turned the cafeteria into a sweet shop! The kids explored different recipes and measuring techniques while making sweet treats. They made lollipops, rice crispy treats, chocolates, and other treats during The Sweet Club.

Students also enjoyed being a part of the Chess Club. Chess Club members and Ms. Amy met weekly and enjoyed working on learning new strategies and tactics to checkmate their opponents. The children love spending extra time with their friends while learning a new game and mastering their techniques!

Ms. Francella, our school counselor, and her club members played games, had story time and fun conversations, while developing healthy friendships during Friendship Circle. Ms. Francella and her members celebrated their last meeting with a friendship party.

Our 3rd Discovery Club sessions will begin the week of January 16, 2024 and will offer clubs including Improv, Boom Whackers, Drama, Slime Time, Jr. Cooking, Cooking, Jr. Robotics, Friendship Circle, and Chess Club. Be sure to sign your child up for one of these exciting clubs to keep them exploring new activities and learning new hobbies in 2024!



Summer Camp 2024!



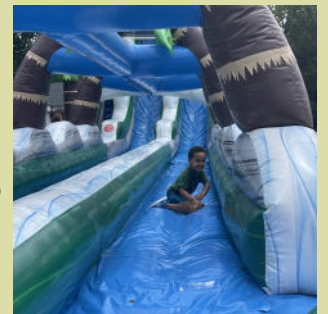
Can you believe that we have been receiving calls about Summer Camp registration? The great news is that plans are well underway for our amazing camp which will be here sooner than we realize!

McGinnis Woods' 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 campers' minds learning throughout the summer. We are traveling off campus for field trips and we are super excited to visit the Art Barn, Stars and Strikes, Tiny Towne, Cumming

Aquatic Center, and so many more. We will also have Lee Bryant, That Puppet Guy and Star Lab visit us on campus.

We will feature additional Specialty and Academic Camps including several different culinary options, Fun with STEM, Pottery Classes, Robotics, and more.

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! Summer Camp information will be sent home with your student, and you can find additional information at www.mcginniswoods.org.



Middle School Happenings



The Middle School is always busy around the holidays! This October the middle school participated in the school wide Food Drive run by our Student Council to benefit The Place of Forsyth County. Students and their families brought in much needed items for our community with the middle school donating 524 Items! Students in the middle school also benefited by earning house points for each item brought in. We were thrilled to be able to provide food for families in need.

In November the middle school had its annual Thanksgiving Feast. The students performed Simple Gifts for friends and family before enjoying tons of food and yummy desserts. The students and their families enjoyed this special time of connecting with other families and our school community.



To close out the holiday season, our students participated in our annual middle school gingerbread house decorating contest. Every year our middle school students complete in teams to create the best decorated gingerbread house. Each team is given identical supplies to use and a limited amount of time to create the best house. When finished, the students vote on the best looking house. The winning team receives house points and the glory of being voted Best Gingerbread House of 2023!



We hope you have as much fun over the holiday break as the middle school had this season!

McGinnis Woods Spelling Bee



On Thursday, November 30th, 2023, the top two spellers from each middle school grade level competed in the McGinnis Woods Middle School Spelling Bee. The competitors were Meredith Monnell and Aman Bhattacharya (5th grade), Ariel Kayakov and Leo Royston (6th grade), Ella Bhattacharya and James Devlin (7th grade), and Rose Mehraban and Arvin Bazli (8th grade). The competition was fierce and the students went many rounds before the final winners were identified.

Our first place winner was Aman Bhattacharya, with Ella Bhattacharya as the runner up. Both Aman and Ella will compete in round one of the Georgia Independent School Association Middle School Bee on February 8th, 2024. The bee will include a test of 100 written words and the top competitors of the written examination will advance to an oral spelling bee. The winners of that round will have an opportunity to progress to additional bees which will ultimately end with the National Scripts Spelling Bee.

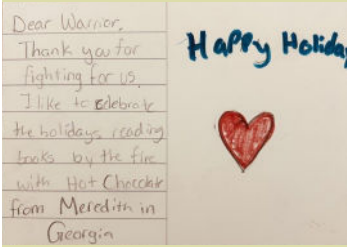
Good luck to this amazing sibling duo as they represent our school on February 8, 2024.



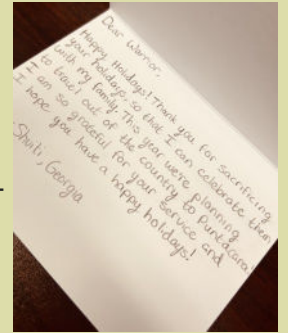
Student Council and Jr. Beta Club News



The first half of our year has come to a close and boy have we been busy! Student Council Officers and Representatives were elected in October. Each grade participated in elections by heading to the polls in our counseling class. It was an exciting moment for all. After elections Student Council wasted no time! We held a food drive for North Fulton Community Charities. Collecting cereal, mac and cheese, and many other items for families in need. Our school was able to donate over 1400 items during our three-day drive. Lastly, our officers helped at the preview of the Holiday Shoppe. They were responsible for yummy hot chocolate and holiday cookies, making sure to jumpstart everyone into the holiday spirit!



Jr. Beta Club members joined together at the end of our first quarter. Jr. Beta is an organization that promotes community service, leadership and excellence. Jr. Beta members have been serving our community by reading books in classes, helping out with our Thanksgiving Feast and leading karate classes. However, we wrapped up 2023 by writing to our military men and women. These cards will be shared with them during the holidays at the USO at Hartsfield.



Band and Chorus Concerts Bring joy to the Season!



At McGinnis Woods School we love to showcase our students' many ever-growing talents. Our music program presented a choir concert on Tuesday, December 12th, and a band concert on Thursday, December 14th, both filled with beautiful, traditional and holiday classics. The performances helped our McGinnis Woods families get into the holiday spirit.

The Band Concert included several songs played by both our 4th grade band and our 5th – 8th grade band. Each group of musicians played traditional classics that included *Jolly Old Saint Nicholas* as well as *the Nutcracker March*. Each Student played with great poise and musicianship. Mr. Bryant was extremely proud of their hard work and dedication to their craft.



The Choir Concert, performed by both our 4th grade and 5th - 8th grade choirs was equally festive. The 4th graders opened the program by warming our hearts to *Winter Troika Ride!* And made us move with *Happy Holidays*. The 5th-8th graders sang *A Winter Night* and enveloped us in thoughts of a snowy holiday with *The Solitude of Snow*. The sounds of the season were definitely in the air.

Thank you to the many friends and families who attended the festive concerts. Thanks too for encouraging our musicians to continue to grow their skills and love of music.



How a Trip to Build-A-Bear Workshop Builds Generosity and Empathy



For over two decades, the first-grade classes at McGinnis Woods School have been taking an unusual field trip every December. Most of our field trips compliment, and bring to life, our Science and Social Studies curriculum.

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. As you know...every six and seven-year-old on the planet 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 were 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 were to be matched up with a children who could really use a furry friend this time of year. 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 actually notice all the good things that they have in their own lives. Our goal was to teach the students not to take for granted all the little luxuries that they enjoy each day. It was to simply make them conscious of them and begin to appreciate them.



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 each year. It helps open the children's eyes to see how truly loved & lucky they are! Perhaps just as importantly, it helps those who need it most during the Holiday Season. We are so proud of our Cubs and Falcons for beginning to develop the intrinsic rewards of giving to others! Way to go First Graders!



Parents Night Out to Kick Off 2024!

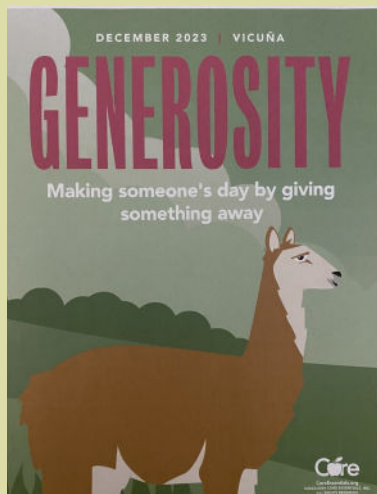
Have you been looking for a great babysitter so that you can run some errands, do some shopping or enjoy a quiet dinner with your special someone? Then look no further. Our next Parents Night Out is scheduled for Friday, January 19 from 5:30 - 10:00 pm. Plan to join Ms. Abby, Ms. Amy, and Ms. Valorie for an evening packed with winter fun. The night will kick off with a delicious dinner and dessert followed by fun crafts, outside time, gym games, and ending with a movie. 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 \$45 per child with a discounted rate of \$25 for each additional sibling.



And the Word of the Month is....



December's Word of the Month is *Generosity*. Students learned that *Generosity is making someone's day by giving something away*. Students were taught the importance of and meaning of generosity throughout the month during morning announcements and in class through real life examples, quotes, and stories.

Teachers identified exceptional students who exhibited great character traits. One student per class was chosen as the Citizen of the Month and enjoyed a pizza lunch with their parents on December 14. Ms. Isabelle was the Teacher of the Month for December! Five students per class were recognized for demonstrating generosity. These special students were recognized and rewarded with a special treat on the morning announcements.

Meet Ms. Leah, School Librarian



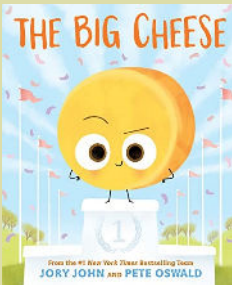
Leah Downs is the librarian at McGinnis Woods and a part of the Administrative Team. Leah has been with McGinnis Woods for almost 6 years.

Leah grew up in Minnesota with her parents and older brother. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies/Early Childhood. She has lived in Georgia for over 20 years and has been working with children for the past 25 years.

In her spare time, Leah likes hanging out with friends, loves the ocean, eating out, movies, football, Nascar and fishing.

Leah feels that the best parts about teaching children are the unpredictable things they say, learning right along with the children as she prepares their lessons and watching them learn and grow up right before her eyes.

The Scholastic Book Fair Was A Hit!

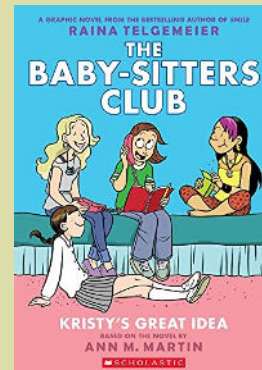
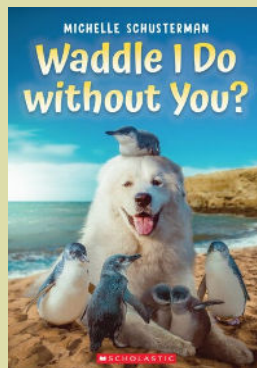


Our Fall fair was without a doubt very successful! There were books for all ages. We love the enthusiasm that the children and their families have for the book fair because our main goal is to keep our children reading and learning.

This book fair was a busy one, from children making their wish lists to purchasing books to read. The children loved every moment, and some came back to visit more than once. Children and their parents enjoyed visiting the fair after attending the Thanksgiving Feasts which ran simultaneously.

Some of the popular books purchased this year were The Big Cheese, Bad Guys, The Baby-Sitters Club, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Mario Kart, Bluey, Gabby's Doll House, Spiderman and Waddle Do Without You.

Thank you for supporting the book fair! Thanks to the funds raised, we will be adding additional books to our wonderful library collection.



Our Kindergarten Teachers Inspire Learning!

We have a fabulous and talented teaching team in kindergarten! These fun loving educators are kind and nurturing to our students while emphasizing the importance of learning. They do a masterful job of teaching phonics, reading, math, and science and social studies skills each day.

Renee Alston is the lead teacher in the Kindergarten Bees class. She has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and has been teaching young children for thirty years. She has 3 grown children of her own. Renee was born in North Carolina and spent the first ten years of her life in New Jersey. She has been living in Georgia for 28 years. During her spare time she enjoys sewing, designing clothes, and traveling.

Rachel Snelling is the assistant teacher in the Bees. She has attended Kennesaw State University in communications and marketing. She is 27 years old, and this is her first-year teaching. She has a seven-year-old Dalmatian named Lucy. Rachel enjoys hiking, playing with her dog and quilting. She recently taught a popular sewing Discovery Club, too. She is so excited to be a part of the Beehive and our after school team!

Christy VanderWeele is the lead teacher in the Kindergarten Pandas room. This is Christy's tenth year teaching at McGinnis Woods. Christy grew up in Louisiana and is a graduate of LSU with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. She has 18 years of experience teaching in both public and private schools. Christy has been married to her husband Doug for 27 years, and they have two children. Christy enjoys spending time traveling with her family. She is a huge college football fan and loves cheering on her favorite team, the LSU Tigers!

Kristen Hollister is the assistant teacher in the Pandas. Kristen has a bachelor's degree in communications and previously taught English in Asia for four years. She is currently completing her Elementary Education Certification. Kristen just got engaged to her longtime boyfriend. They are hoping to get married next year. She enjoys hiking and shopping.



The Sandwich Project



The fourth graders and their parents had a fantastic time making hundreds of turkey and cheese sandwiches for people in need of nutrition after their Thanksgiving Feast in November. The volunteers took great care in creating the sandwiches to specifications as outlined by the Sandwich Project, a nonprofit organization. The sandwiches were then transported to a drop site where the sandwiches are then distributed to those in need.

This is the 2nd year that McGinnis Woods School has participated in this worthy volunteer experience. We enjoyed serving others through the simple act of sandwich making and hope that this experience will lead our students to make volunteering a lifelong priority. Learn more at <https://www.thesandwichproject.org/>.

Our First Grade Team is Amazing!

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, an 8th grader, and Max who is in 4th grade at McGinnis Woods. 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!

Dee Godfrey is the assistant teacher for the Falcons. She is the mother of an 19-year-old daughter, Zoe, who recently graduated high school. Dee has 2 two fur babies named Milo and Oakley. Dee earned her Bachelor's degree in Art from North Georgia University. She enjoys shopping, cuddling with her fur babies, and enjoying watching movies with her friends during her free time. She is really enjoying being "teamed up" with Mr. Josh and working with the wonderful children at McGinnis Woods!



Isabelle Richardson is the led teacher for the 1st Grade Cubs! Isabelle is a Georgia Native and graduated from Kennesaw State. Isabelle got married up in the mountains this summer to the love-of-her-life, Ryan. They enjoyed an amazing trip to Ireland on their honeymoon. They two cats named Olive and Gumbo who love to play hard and nap hard! Her love of animals is showcased in the woodland-themed classroom. These Cubs are doing so great this year!



Carolyn Arnold is the assistant teacher in the Cubs class. She is also a graduate of Kennesaw State. Carolyn has been married for 33 years and her two boys are also attending Kennesaw State! Her youngest son has been asked to join the Georgia United Men's Gymnastics Team. Carolyn is loving 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 our overnight field trip to Zoo Atlanta this spring. It has been, and continues to be, a good time to be a First Grader at McGinnis Woods!

Safety Patrols are on the Way!

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

The primary purpose of our patrols is to enhance the safety of our students and promote the development of leadership skills and good citizenship qualities in its members. A safety Patrol's job is to model for students the safety rules that have already been taught in the classroom.

Our Safety Patrol Members this year include: Fawzan Shaik, Leul Takele, Abigail Darby, Luke Espinel, Anishka Potharaju, Delainie Pressley, Olive Fan, Vivian DeMedeiros, and Maven Iliescu.

McGinnis Woods Robotics Team for 2023



The McGinnis Woods Robotics Team has been meeting since the summer in preparation of the annual competition which was held on December 16, 2023 at Wheeler High School. The competition is held by FLL (First LEGO League) and is an international event. This year's team of 13 students in fifth, sixth and seventh grades met weekly to begin with and added more practices as the deadline for the competition got closer. The students used the LEGO Spike Prime kits and the LEGO Spike Prime App to build and code the robots they made.

Ms. Wendy is the team's fearless coach! The team also had help this season from two different groups of high school students. One of the high schoolers even attended McGinnis Woods, so his help has been a special reminder of just how special our school really is! The mentors' help, especially with the coding, was invaluable to our students.



Our mentors from South Forsyth High School also invited our Wildbots team to come for a visit on December 8, 2023. While there, the team members were able to practice our presentations for the upcoming competition to receive feedback. Our mentors also had a fun activity for the students to do! It was so neat to see what the robotics students are doing in high school and see their facilities.

Our big competition at Wheeler High School was a wonderful growth opportunity for our team. Although we did not place, our students had fun and learned a lot for next year's season. We are so proud of our students hard work and dedication. We also appreciate all of our students' parents for their help and encouragement during the season!



Great job, Wildbots!

Science Olympiad Team Enjoys Problem Solving



The Science Olympiad team has been formed for the year and are already practicing! We have 15 students in third grade through fifth grade, 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 on March 16, 2024, at Hillgrove High School. Some of the events involve working as a team, and other events are more individually based. Every event is STEM based 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 afterschool. Ms. Lauren and Ms. Wendy are the teams talented leaders, and they both love science and STEM!

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. These goals are achieved by participating in Science Olympiad tournaments and non-competitive events, incorporating Science Olympiad into classroom curriculum and attending teacher training institution.



Pictures from Around the School

