



McGinnis Woods Buzz

September, 2024 Volume 18, Issue 1

The latest buzz . . .



*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

PA Update.....2	Green House Moves6	Discovery Clubs.....10
Preschool Corner.....3	Middle School Team.....7	Beta Club Honor.....10
Wildcat Chat.....4	Ms. Liz, STEM Teacher.....8	Science Olympiad.....11
Kindergartners Visit Ink.....4	Meet Our Learning Specialists...8	Mr. Bryant, Music.....12
Middle School5	Jr. Beta and Student Council...9	Green Team.....13
Alice In Wonderland.....5	School Store.....9	Word of the Month.....13
Robotics Team.....6	Student Council Elections.....10	Photos.....14

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/13	PreK Field Trip Southeastern Railway Museum
9/16	Wildcat Wear Day
9/17	5th-8th Shakespeare Tavern In-House Visit
9/18	PreK-8th School Picture Day
9/19	School Picture Make-up Day
9/23	1st-4th Project Showcase Information Sent Home
9/23	5th-8th Technology Fair Information Sent Home
9/24	2nd grade Field Trip Art Barn
9/25	Kindergarten Field Trip Art Barn
9/26	Volleyball and Soccer Games at Annunciation at 4:30
9/30	Wildcat Wear Day

A Message From Ms. Mary

The 2024-2025 school year is off to a great start! The first month of school was filled with meeting new friends, engaging activities, interesting field trips, and lots of fun. The McGinnis Woods Team is so pleased with our students and their enthusiasm for learning. We know that this is going to be an amazing year!

The students have settled into our school routines and are making progress toward academic growth. Discovery Clubs, Sports teams, Robotics, Science Olympiad and practices for Alice in Wonderland have also begun. The Robotics Team has been busy building obstacles and making plans to research and design a solution to a real-life problem regarding our oceans. Former McGinnis Woods high school students will assist our students as they code their robots to complete the challenges. They will be well prepared for the competition they will attend this winter.

Curriculum Nights were well attended as families came to learn about their student’s grade level curriculum and ways that they can partner with the teachers and school. We also had a great turn out at our recent Parent Association Family Pizza Party and PA Meetings. We are so thankful for the new volunteers who have stepped up to give their time and energy here at the school. If you would like to join us, please read the PA Update in this newsletter.

This summer we moved our green house and raised beds to a new location closer to our Nature Explore Certified Outdoor Classroom. As a school we are always trying to expand our STEM instruction and opportunities, so this new location and some enhancements are making time spent learning in nature so much more accessible.

We have so many wonderful activities planned for the coming months, so please be sure to make note of the “Dates to Remember” section of the McGinnis Woods Buzz, so that you can be a part of the life of our school through field trips, PA activities or sporting events. Another great way to keep informed is by checking out our school app and liking our social media.

Here’s to another great year,

Ms. Mary

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.

Parent Association Update

Welcome ALL parents to the 2024 – 2025 school year!

The McGinnis Woods School Parent Association (PA) is a special group. The PA's primary goal is to support the school by hosting events that give back to the students, teachers, and staff throughout the school year. The PA helps to raise funds financially for the school by hosting the annual wildcat fund which helps to raise funds that are immediately invested back into the school for the student body's benefit. There are a host of other fun events that the PA traditionally organizes and are a staple which make McGinnis Woods School SPECIAL!!

Fun Fact: All parents are part of the Parent Association!

Upcoming This Year...

We are excited to start the school year off by showering our AMAZING teachers and staff with a Surprise at the end of September!

Monthly Meetings: The PA meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the school lunchroom.

Calendar of Events for the 2024 – 2025 School Year:



McGinnis Woods School - Parent Association

The Calendar

2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Events:

Event	Planning Kick-Off	Actual Event Date
September Teachers Treat	August 26, 2024	September 30, 2024
Wildcat Fund*	September 9, 2024	October 28, 2024
The Holiday Shoppe	October 7, 2024	December 9 – December 13, 2024
January Teachers Treat	December 9, 2024	January 3, 2025
Valentines' Day Dance	November 4, 2024	February 8, 2025
Teacher's Appreciation Week	December 9, 2024	March 3 – March 7, 2025
Scene on the Green	April 7, 2024	May 9, 2025
PA Water Day	April 7, 2024	May 21, 2025
May Teacher Treat	April 7, 2024	May 22, 2025

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

Steven Boos, President
Hally Patel, Vice President
Nsharra Gross, Secretary
Adrienne Posillico, Treasurer

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



The Preschool had an exciting summer! This summer we learned all about the different types of dinosaurs and how they existed millions of years ago. The children had so much fun learning how big a dinosaur footprint was and loved our blow-up dinosaur water sprinkler even more. We started off the school year in August with Pete the Cat but resumed Frog Street curriculum at the beginning of September.

Our infants are moving and grooving here in the preschool. They are working on developing those tummy time skills. Tummy time is important for many reasons, it helps strengthen baby's neck, shoulders and arm muscles all while improving their ability to move. While practicing tummy time the babies enjoyed exploring with many different toys and looking at high-contrast shapes and patterns. Our babies also LOVE to go for walks outdoors and enjoy the fresh sunshine.

In our Toddler classrooms they have been busy learning about farm and zoo animals. They have been practicing with four-piece puzzles, as they are an excellent tool for developing fine motor skills. While learning about zoo animals the children used toothbrushes, soap and water and gave our zoo animals a "bath." Sensory development can engage a child's sense of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. On another note, our special activities started back in August with Art with Ms. Tanya being one of the favorites from the toddlers. The Toddlers also have music class with Mr. Bryant, Library with Ms. Leah and Spanish class with Ms. Pilar.



Our preschool program has been working hard on their fine motor skills. They have been doing this through playdoh play, drawing, stamping with letters and practicing cutting with scissors. Cutting with scissors helps children develop their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination. The preschool aged children are also learning all about themselves and their emotions in the month of September. They were able to sit down in small groups to work on drawing and expressing these emotions with a friend.

We've all made some fun memories these past few months in preschool and are looking forward to many more. This year the Preschool won Best Childcare in 2024 for My Alpharetta and My Johns Creek/Duluth. This was such a wonderful surprise, and we are so grateful for all the parents who voted for us. Thank you all! Bring on Fall.



Wildcat Chat by Coach Ricky

We are excited to kick off the fall season with a record number of participants on both the soccer and volleyball teams. This year we are proud to announce that both teams will be receiving new uniforms with the addition of warm-up suits.

Both teams started the season strong with impressive victories against Atlanta Classical. Our soccer team came out on top with a 6-4 win, while our Lady Wildcats cruised to a 2-0 victory.

We have had many close, competitive games recently but our teams have come up short. Our coaches have used these defeats to challenge our teams to communicate and develop their teamwork to take on the next games.

The Girls Volleyball Team played at Howard on September 12.

Plan to join us for some volleyball or soccer fun as we cheer on the Wildcats and watch our athletes soar!

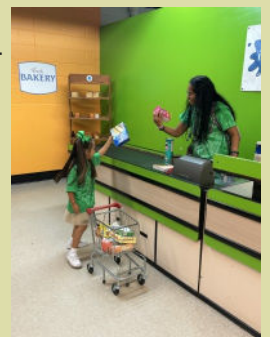


Go Wildcats

Kindergartners Visit Ink



On August 22, the kindergarten classes visited the Interactive Neighborhood for Kids, also known as INK. The students have been studying the different types of community helpers in Social Studies. This field trip was a wonderful way for the children to experience each of the jobs that they have been learning about in an interactive way. Students were able to let their imagination run wild while learning about the world around them. They enjoyed pretending to be firemen, doctors, clerks, teachers, and dentists. The hands-on exhibits are structured in a way that lets each child touch and feel the real world. A wonderful time was had by all.



Middle School Happenings



Our 5th through 8th grade students went on the first school field trip of the 2024-2025 school year! They went to Treetop Quest at the Gwinnet Environmental and Heritage Center during the first week of school. Students of all grade levels were mixed together to participate on the ropes course. Students learned the importance of trust, communication, listening, and encouragement while completing the course. Students traversed obstacles, swings and zip lines in a range of varying difficulties. Students helped one another with equipment and encouraged classmates on difficult obstacles. We believe that the students learned skills to use here at school with students of all ages, as well as in their activities outside of school.

The Middle School students also enjoyed their first social of the school year during the second week of school. Middle School students can participate on a planning committee which plans fun after school activities, so that the students have a chance to hang out and socialize in a non-academic environment. This year we are planning one large social each nine weeks with possible plans to head off campus to go bowling.



Alice In Wonderland



Each year the McGinnis Woods Drama Club performs a magical, musical performance in the spring! This year will be no exception with their rendition of the musical Alice in Wonderland, Jr.! This undeniably zany musical will delight audiences both young and old, and serve as an endearing reminder that we should never stop chasing proverbial rabbits down their rabbit holes- and that it is never too late to (re) discover our true selves. Familiar characters will be taking the stage as Alice, the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, Madhatter and Queen of Hearts brings the show to life!

Tryouts have already taken place; roles have been assigned and cast workers are eagerly working on their parts to bring this show to life under the able direction of Mr. Bryant and Ms. Liz Silva who are co-directing the show. The Drama Club meets every Friday from 3:30 to 5:00 and will add additional practices as opening night nears. The cast is excited to present the play and show the audience the wonderfully imaginative world of Alice.



Robotics Team Gets to Work!

The McGinnis Woods Robotics Team for the 2024 season has recently begun meeting to prepare for their regional competition in December! Middle school students in fifth through eighth grades may join the team, and we have 13 students busily working on this year's challenge course! The theme for the year is "Submerged." Our students will learn about how and why people explore the oceans. They will be designing robots from our LEGO Spike Prime kits to complete "missions" on our challenge course. They will also find and research a problem related to the season theme and then design and create a possible solution. Ms. Wendy, along with Mr. Damien, are super excited to be working with these talented students!

Meet the team of middle school students: Ahati, Maanvik, Riya, Anishka, Anika, Leul, Harrison, Aman, Ryan, Jaivik, Hyder, Ayaan, and James!



**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**

Our Greenhouse and Raised Beds Have a New Home!



We are excited to share a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to hands-on, experiential learning at McGinnis Woods School. Recently, our greenhouse and raised garden beds were relocated to new spots on our campus closer to our Outdoor Classroom. This project was a labor of love, involving detailed planning and plenty of hard work from our dedicated staff and students.

The move was spearheaded by Ms. Liz, our passionate STEM teacher, who, alongside a fantastic team, coordinated every aspect of the relocation. The greenhouse and raised beds are now situated in prime locations that will maximize sunlight and accessibility, making them perfect for our ongoing gardening projects and expanding our outdoor learning environment.

The relocation of the greenhouse and garden beds represents more than just a physical move; it's a renewal of our commitment to fostering a love for nature, science, and sustainability in our students. Outdoor learning is an integral part of our educational philosophy at McGinnis Woods, and these new garden spaces will play a crucial role in that mission. We're looking forward to seeing the fruits (and vegetables!) of our labor in the coming months.



Middle School Teachers Make an Impact at McGinnis Woods



The Middle School Team at McGinnis Woods has over 60 years of teaching experience and really knows how to inspire and encourage our students to stretch their brains and strive to meet their potential. They enjoy their zany, energetic students and try to make each day memorable.

This is Ms. Nicole Seltzer's seventeenth year teaching social studies and her twenty-fifth year at McGinnis Woods. Ms. Nicole was the 2017-2018 recipient of Teacher of the Year at McGinnis Woods. She received her Master in the Art of Teaching from Mercer University. Ms. Nicole is married to her wonderful husband, Jeff. They have two children, Josh, who is a Junior at Georgia Southern University, and Rebecca, who is a high school senior. Ms. Nicole is ready to make history come alive once again this school year.

This is Ms. Lauren Walraven's third year teaching science, and her second year at McGinnis Woods. She has a background in psychology and biology and is currently studying to earn a master's degree at Mercer University. She has a passion for all things science and is looking forward to sharing that passion with students. She has three cats and enjoys anything with fantasy in it. She strives to give her students the knowledge they need to understand how the world around them works.

Ms. Pam Charlton teaches math in the middle school. She received her Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University in Elementary and Middle School Education and did her post graduate work at the University of Illinois. Ms. Pam has taught in public schools in Florida and Illinois, as well as another private school in Georgia. This will be her twenty-seventh-year teaching math and her nineteenth year at McGinnis Woods. Ms. Pam was the 2023-2024 McGinnis Woods Teacher of the Year! In her spare time, she enjoys curling up with a delightful book, but she is always ready for a new school year to turn on the "math light bulb" in her students!

Ms. Jaime Espinel has nine years of teaching experience. This is her fourth-year teaching at McGinnis Woods. Ms. Jaime has a Bachelor of Arts in Clarinet Performance from Piedmont College and a Master of Education from University of Phoenix, certified in Middle School English Language Arts. Ms. Jaime has been married to her wonderful husband for twenty-two years. Together they have two beautiful boys, Luke (10 years) and Logan (7 years). As a family they love to explore the outdoors, from bike riding to hiking, to camping. Her goal this year is to instill in her students a love for reading and writing (or to grow an already budding love).

Ms. Neelu Chawla is excited to join the McGinnis Woods community. She was born and brought up in New Delhi, India where she obtained a Bachelor's and Master in Finance. Prior to becoming a math teacher, she worked as an accountant and was involved in developing content for various math apps. Ms Neelu has taught at local public schools and is excited to join our Team. Two fun facts- she is fluent in three languages and has a cat named Casper. She is passionate about inspiring young minds and setting them up for success.

Ms. Liz Makes STEM Class Amazing!



Ms. Liz grew up in Georgia and attended Reinhardt University where she received her degree in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Liz also has a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Georgia Southern University.

Ms. Liz has been in education for 21 years and has been at McGinnis Woods for 6 years. In her 21 years in education she has taught many different grade levels, worked as an administrator, and now is on her third year of teaching STEM. Ms. Liz loves being able to teach all the different grade levels because it allows her the opportunity to know each child in the school. She loves when students have a "lightbulb moment" and can understand a concept they may have struggled with until that moment.

When Ms. Liz isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her children, Banks and Addie who are in second grade and kindergarten at McGinnis Woods, and her husband George. They love to be on their boat on the lake exploring nature and the water. She also loves reading, crafting, baking and Disney.

Ms. Katherine and Ms. Trish Enrichment and Learning Support Teachers



McGinnis Woods School is fortunate to have two Enrichment and Learning Support teachers who work closely with the students, classroom teachers and administrators to meet the academic needs of our students. They are phenomenal educators and add great value to our program.

Ms. Katherine is excited to begin her 4th year at McGinnis Woods as an Academic Enrichment and Support Teacher. She has a current teaching certificate in Georgia in elementary education with an endorsement in gifted education. She graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Special Education. Ms. Katherine loves working with students who are learning to read and became certified at the Associate Level with the Academy of Orton Gillingham in 2023. Prior to coming to McGinnis Woods, she was home with her children for many years but taught kindergarten and first grade for 8 years before becoming a mom. She and her husband, Jim, have three children, Amanda (19), Brooke (17), and Gavin (14). She enjoys time

with her family, reading, and walking her two rescue dogs, Gracie and Ruby

Ms. Trish has been with McGinnis Woods since 2011. She started out as a floater, then became the 3rd grade teacher before she transitioned into the Academic Support and Enrichment role. Ms. Trish is a certified teacher in the state of Georgia and has a degree in psychology. She started teaching in Boston Inner City Schools after graduating from the University of Massachusetts. From there, she taught at Horsholm International School of Denmark for 3 years, and was also head of the Curriculum for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. In 1999, she moved to Atlanta and continued teaching until she started her own family. In her spare time, Ms. Trish enjoys spending time with her husband Thomas, and her 3 children, Jakob(22), Nicholas (20), and Christina(17). Outside of school she loves reading, traveling, and running.

The School Store is Back and Better Than Ever!

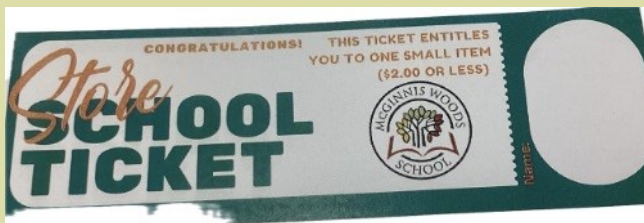


Did you know that McGinnis Woods has a school store located in the same space as the concession stand? The school store has been a fun tradition at McGinnis Woods, so we are glad that it is back this year by popular demand!

We are thankful for our middle school students for volunteering their time to help us out. Student Council members are in charge of merchandizing the store and work closely with Ms. Francella to stock and run the store. The school store is open twice a month on Tuesdays from 8-8:30, during morning carpool.

Some items available in our store for purchase are pencils, erasers, pop it bracelets, notebooks, snacks and much more. The first day was a hit! Please refer to your calendar to be sure your child can shop for some goodies.

New this year, students who are chosen by their teachers as a Core Essential Student of the month will receive a school store ticket to shop with at the store. The tickets replace the place of the Frosty key chain coupons that we used to reward the children in the past. All students are invited to visit the school store and may purchase items with cash only.



Student Council Elections on the Way!



McGinnis Woods believes in the power of student leadership and one of our many leadership opportunities for students is through Student Council. The Student Council at McGinnis Woods is in charge of different activities which positively impact the students at the school. The council officers lead Red Ribbon Week and create and host the annual Talent Show which is always a special activity.

We will hold our annual Student Council elections in October. Middle School Students in 5th -8th grades are eligible to run for the officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each student choosing to run for office will complete an application which includes questions about their ideas to improve and impact the school. There will also be a parent informational meeting. After a week of campaigning with handmade campaign posters, stickers and individual commercials, the student body will vote to elect the officers. Elementary students will also vote during Counseling class for their classmates who they would like to represent them on the Student Council. More details about our Student Council and the election process will be sent out soon.

Discovery Clubs



McGinnis Woods Discovery Clubs are 6 weeklong clubs that are held 4 times a year. Our first session of clubs is well underway and the students in the clubs are learning and having fun during each club. Discovery Clubs change each session and often include Robotics, Cooking, Chess, and many more.

During session 1 our PreK-5B teacher, Ms. Abby is having a blast in her Imagination Zone Club. The students have made several exciting crafts and used their imagination to make them come to life. They also spend their time socializing and making new friends while spending time with current friends.

Students love being a part of the Chess Club with Ms. Amy! They meet every Friday and learn new strategies and tactics so that they can become chess masters. The level of competition is quite competitive even though the children are young.

Ms. Valorie hosts the fan favorite club, cooking club! She has a session for older students and our younger friends, too. Each week they make a special treat while following recipes and learning how to bake. They have already made donuts, pizza, and lollipops this session! The best part of the club is that they get to sample their delicious treats at the end of each club.

Drama Club is preparing for their production of Alice In Wonderland which will take place in the spring. Mr. Bryant and Ms. Liz are super excited about their amazing cast!

Our second Discovery Club session will begin the week of October 14th and include activities such as Drama Club, Robotics, Chess, Cooking, and Slime Time!



McGinnis Woods Earns 2023-2024 National Beta School of Distinction Status!



McGinnis Woods School received a special letter and banner recognizing our Jr. Beta Club as a National Beta School of Distinction. This prestigious national award is a testament to our school's commitment to academic excellence and preparing our students for their futures.

National Beta, whose motto is, "Let Us Lead by Serving Others", is the nation's largest independent, non-profit educational youth organization devoted to recognizing and promoting high academic achievement, worthy character, student leadership skills, and encouraging service to others. It is an organization that promotes community service, leadership and

excellence. At McGinnis Woods, Jr. Beta members serve our community by volunteering their time. They also partner with Student Council to promote many of our community food pantry drives, book drives, or other service opportunities.

The McGinnis Woods Jr. Beta Club has a membership of close to 20 students. Middle school students in 5th grade or new to McGinnis Woods who qualify to become new members will be notified in October after the first grading period. Parents will be notified of their student's eligibility to join this dynamic club.



Science Olympiad Team is Off to a Great Start



The McGinnis Woods Science Olympiad Team has begun practicing for the 2024-2025 season! Science Olympiad is an academic competition for elementary and middle school students in grades 3-6, featuring a variety of study and engineering events and the opportunity to learn about, explore, and appreciate the world of science. Our team has students from the third, fourth, and fifth grades this year and will meet weekly for the next several months. We are preparing for a regional competition that will be held next spring. We had a strong team of 26 students that came out to our first practice, and Ms. Lauren and Ms. Wendy are super excited to be working with these enthusiastic and smart students!

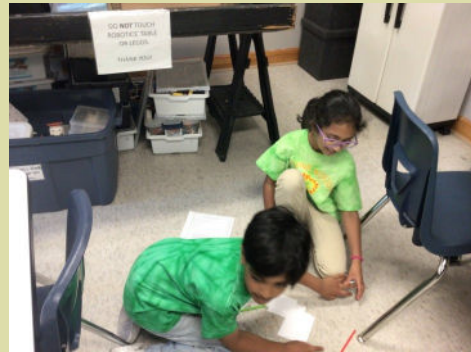
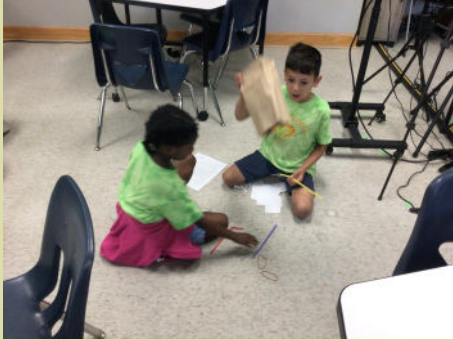
Here is our team!

Third graders: Arjun, Chloe, Megan, Mackenzie, Arya, Rafi, Anvi, Adelina, Lauren, Hemanya, Ira, Raymond, Zara, and Kaysen.

Fourth graders: Vardaan, Mayukha, Angad, and Alma

Fifth graders: Ahati, Anika, Zishaan, Anishka, and Riya

Look out for more information as we get closer to our competition! If your child is in 3rd-6th grades and is interested in joining the team, please reach out to Ms. Wendy at whamann@mcginniswoods.org or Ms. Lauren at Lwalraven@mcginniswoods.org.



Mr. Bryant Shares a Love of Music



Mr. Bryant grew up in Broken Bow, Oklahoma and attended Henderson State University in Arkansas where he achieved a degree in BA in Theatre and a minor in music. Mr. Bryant performed in the Chamber chorale, HSU Marching Band, and many theatre shows while in the program.

Mr. Bryant has been involved in education for 3 years. He taught at the high school level before moving to Georgia. This is his second year working with McGinnis Woods students. Mr. Bryant loves to see the spark that creativity causes when students overcome hurdles they have struggled with in sharing through music or theater. The joy of music is a constant in Mr. Bryant's life and he hopes to share that joy with all.

When Mr. Bryant isn't working, he spends most of his time as a storyteller and creator. Whether writing music or going on fun adventures, Mr. Bryant is always creating. He and his fiancé are currently planning their wedding in 2025.

Skyping with Scientists is Interesting!



Early this school year, Ms. Liz, STEM, scheduled some opportunities for our students to skype and learn with scientists. On Friday, September 6th our 2nd-5th graders had the privilege of skyping with Dr. Phoebe Dreux Chappell from the University of South Florida. She is a microbiologist and oceanographer and taught our students about her interesting research about plankton.

Dr. Chappell has explored all major oceans, including the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. Her project in the Southern Ocean combined trace metal biogeochemistry, phytoplankton cultivation, and

molecular biology to address questions regarding the production of iron-binding compounds and the role of diatom in this iron-limited region. The students were super excited to learn about diatoms which are an important group of photosynthetic algae whose growth fuels the food web in the Southern Ocean.

On Friday, September 13th our middle schoolers will be skyping with Mia Paletta, scientist. She is from Savannah and graduated from Emory and Georgia Tech. She is a rising 5th year PhD candidate in Computational Neuroscience at the University of Chicago. She has a dual bachelors in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology from Emory and Biomedical Engineering from Georgia Tech. Her thesis work is focused on how the brain produces complex movement sequences in songbirds.... Like singing! Her topic for our students is called "Birds, Brains, and BCI's (brain-computer interfaces) She developed it to span a range of topics from animal behavior to neuro-engineering and show how even those topics can be connected.

Inspiring our students to learn about the world through others and piquing their interest through skyping is one of the many ways we try to expand their sense of wonder and help them realize that the world is filled with amazing opportunities and careers!



Green Team Club Expands



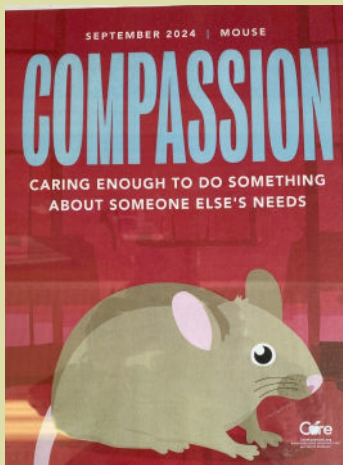
The Green Team is an environmental club that is offered to our 2nd and 3rd grade students all year. These students meet once a week with Ms. Abby to make plans and implement steps to help us meet our Green School Initiative. The team members collect recycling from all classrooms and help spread awareness throughout school by leading different school wide activities.

This year the team will be even more hands-on with the addition of our new school composting machine. They will also help care for the plants in our Green House and find additional ways to care for our school grounds.

Each year McGinnis Woods partners with Keep Forsyth County Beautiful. Ms. Apryl, one of the school outreach directors visits our campus quarterly to lead the students in activities which explain how important it is for students to help us care for our environment. Her first visit of the 2024-2025 school year is planned for Friday, September 13.

We look forward to achieving Keep Forsyth County Beautiful's School Platinum Level again this year as we continue to grow McGinnis Woods as a Green School. We will host a schoolwide community clean up day of our Outdoor Classroom once the weather cools. More information will be shared about this fun opportunity sometime soon.

Compassion is Our Word of the Month



Developing character in our students is an important cornerstone of a McGinnis Woods education. We are two months into the 2024-2025 school year and have focused on two important character traits. Our Word of the Month for August was Wisdom and the Word of the Month for September is Compassion. This month we are defining compassion as *caring enough to do something about someone else's needs*.

The students have learned the importance of both wisdom and compassion during daily morning announcements and in their classes. Teachers identified exceptional students who have demonstrated this trait throughout the month and they were recognized and rewarded with special *School Store Dollars* to be used at our School Store.

Additionally, one exceptional student was chosen as the Citizen of the Month and rewarded with a special pizza lunch from Mangia with their proud parents. Our Kindergarten through 8th grade Citizens for the month of August are Ariel Okoroafor, Victoria Boos, Arham Chhadua, Aarika Nadig, Jesse Jiang, Lyla DeMedeiros, Abir Duggal, Anthony Valle, Madeleine Monnell, Maven Iliescu, Pdraig Gallivan, Leo Royston, and Shviti Chilkamari. We are so proud of all our Citizens of the Month and all our other wonderful students who have worked hard to show compassion throughout the month. Our very important character Word of the Month for October is Self-Control.

Pictures from Around the School

