



McGinnis Woods Buzz

December 2019, Volume 14, Issue 3



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz . . .

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DATES TO REMEMBER

1/6/20	Classes Resume Discovery Clubs Begin
1/10	PK Guest Speaker High Touch—High Tech
1/13	1st and 2nd Spelling Bee
1/14	1st, 2nd, 3rd Guest Speaker High Touch—High Tech
1/14	4th Field Trip to MLK Center
1/15	3rd and 4th Spelling Bee
1/16	Kindergarten Field Trip to Legoland
1/16	5th-8th Spelling Bee
1/17	5th-8th Field Trip to CNN Center
1/20	MLK Day After School Only
1/22	Keep Forsyth County Beau- tiful Guest Speaker
1/25	Open House 1-3pm

McGinnis Woods Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide superior academics through hands-on approaches, which foster self confidence and self esteem which prepare students for the challenges of high school and college and inspire a lifelong love of learning.

A Message From Ms. Mary



The calendar year is coming to a close and the holidays have everyone bustling about. Our days have been filled with lessons, end of semester assessments, midterms, basketball games, concerts, and special events! Our last day of school for this year is tomorrow and 2nd quarter report cards are ready to be sent home and celebrated.

Our word of the month for December has been joy and I must say it has been an extraordinarily joyful time around the school. The students we thrilled with our annual Holiday Shoppe and this was thanks to the amazing volunteers who generously gave of their time as they created the best shop in years. Their enthusiasm and joyful outlook rubbed off on the many volunteers who helped our students shop and wrap their treasures so that their loved ones will be surprised. Each of our students enjoyed the fun and learned about budgeting at the same time. Our volunteers went home happy and exhausted each day, with a greater appreciation for the job that our teachers make look so easy.

Our students spread joy to our school community and community at large through gestures both large and small. The Jr. Beta Club collected over 2000 items which they delivered to Meals by Grace and a local school's Backpack Program which provides backpacks filled with food to children at risk. The first graders made their annual visit to Build a Bear Workshop to build 23 bears which they then delivered to the Children's Wish Foundation in Roswell. Our Student Council representatives spread joy by delivering special treats which they created for each of the teachers and staff, and our third graders made dog toys which they donated to a local rescue. Each of these community service projects provided our students the opportunity to give of themselves in a age appropriate and meaningful ways. We hope that these simple acts of kindness will inspire our students to live lives marked with the spirit of joy and compassion.

On behalf of the teachers, staff and Administration, I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season filled with peace and joy. We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday January 6, 2020 to kick off a new decade filled with new opportunities for learning and growth!

Ms. Mary



Parent Association Update



Hello Wildcat Families!

It's nearly time for winter break and what a great first part of the year we've had! Many projects funded by our 2nd Annual Wildcat Fund are underway and we couldn't be more excited.

In case you missed it, we sent out a video recapping the concession stand makeover project. It turned out so well that it has been named the Wildcat Market and will serve as the concession stand and school store. While it was exciting to give the room a new look and fantastic concession options, the real achievement has been witnessing the pride and excitement our students have in their new space. We are proud of our students and parent volunteers for working in the Wildcat Market to make it come to life!

We also recently purchased iPads for our students in the 2nd grade Fish classroom as part of the 2nd Annual Wildcat Fund initiative. This exciting project allowed us to deliver one iPad for each student in the class and has already transformed the ways they can explore and create!

We're not done yet! We still have plenty of things planned over winter break and can't wait to update you in a few weeks. Thank you so very much to our donors who have made all of these incredible things possible.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and look forward to seeing you in January!

Upcoming Events:

Annual Family Valentines Dance - Saturday, February 8th

Our annual Family Valentine's Dance will be here before you know it! We have booked our dance at the Polo Club again this year. The venue is gorgeous and our families always have a fantastic time. We take pride in this being a family event where parents, students and staff members are invited to join us for an evening filled with food, music, dancing and fun! More information will come home in January, but be sure to save the date!

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

Meet your 2019-2020 PA Board

Jason Harper - President
Jaclyn Anderson - Vice President
Wendy Haye - Treasurer
Kelly Rawlins - Secretary
Lisa Varshine - Board Member
Jacki Freeman - Board Member / Teacher Liaison
Elysia Gallivan - Board Member
Mary Johnson - Principal
Tonia Usher - Preschool Director

www.mcjinniswoodspa.org pa@mcjinniswoods.org



Happy Holidays!

Thank You 2019 Wildcat Fund Donors

FRIENDS OF MCGINNIS WOODS

Harry Li
Ms. Trish
The Silva Family

Khamaal and Shena Edwards
Ms. Christy

The Lane Family
Anonymous
Anonymous

Arjit Kandalai

Mesi Family
Sarah Jiang and Jesse Jiang
Aurelian Fan-Jeanne
Elizabeth Wester
Amy Williams
The Aber Family
The Nunez Family
Tamara and Gabrielle Greene
Jeol Family
The Newbergs
The Schecter Family
The Cohavi Family
Hannah Callaway
Ms. Abby and Mike Matthews
The Evangelistas
The Langs
The Stuart Family
Pierce Cotonio
Grandma and Grandpa Kennedy
James and Marilyn Williams
The Anderson Family
Anonymous
The Shabbirs
Ashlyn and Avery Horne

GREEN AND WHITE CIRCLE

Brad, Kim, Tori and Julie Kershaw
Zuhayr Ali

The Walldren Family
Bob, Mary, Brittany and Mackenzie
The Anderson Family
Kristine and Bruce Skala
The Dunn Family
Anonymous
The Bennett Family
The Clune Family
Louis, Jacqueline and Benjamin Tseng
Jacobs Family
Saniel Abad and Alex Almanza
Gakkivan Family
The Huber Family

Wildcat Pride Circle

Doyle
Dwayne and Lindsay Eavenson

WILDCAT SOCIETY

The Bishop Family
The Harper Family
The Lane Family

The Nobile Family
Laura and Derek Robinson

The Haye Family
The Chahwala Family
Emel Family

Schultz Family

Alex Mehraban
Koehnke Family
The Nagamohan Family



Preschool Corner



We would like to take a moment to welcome Brandi Bounds to our Administrative Team. Brandi is an Assistant Director in our preschool. Brandi has been involved in some capacity in preschools since 2010. She has served as a teacher, Assistant Director, and Director. Alpharetta has been her home for the majority of her life and she loves to build relationships within the community.



When not at work, Brandi likes crafting, spending time outdoors, water kayaking, and trying new brunch spots. The thing she loves most about childcare is creating the bond with the children, families, and staff—because she loves making an impact. Please welcome Brandi to the team, as she is looking forward to getting to know each of our families!

During the month of December, the preschoolers have been learning about Gingerbread Men, Holidays Around the World, Winter, and Ringing in the New Year. So many exciting activities have been happening each day. The preschoolers enjoyed a visit from Santa, some of the older children shopped at our fantastic Holiday Shoppe, and we enjoyed new books from the Scholastic Book Fair. The Toddlers from Mrs. Corrine and Ms. Ashley's class enjoyed playing in whipped cream creating the most flavorful "snow" ever. The 3B class with Ms. Angie had fun putting their senses to use while creating gingerbread playdoh. Ms. Melanie and Ms. Hayley's class went on a gingerbread man hunt around the school to find the running gingerbread man!



We are anticipating more fun in the days to come and are looking forward to ringing in the New Year with all of our friends and families!

Chorus and Band Concerts Welcome Winter



We kicked off December with some very festive musical performances featuring our Chorus and Band students directed by Ms. Katie Carlise. The 4th grade chorus students sang *It's Winter Again*, *Snow*, *Dreydl, Dreydl*, *Redbird*, and *You Better Bundle Up*. Their adorable selections were complete with hand motions and huge smiles. Our 5-8th grade chorus students sang both familiar and new songs about winter during their concert on December 2, including a new version of *Frosty*. Mikayla Stuart's solo in *My Favorite Things* was one of the highlights of the show.

The Band Concert performed on December 12 was called *A December Celebration*. The 4th grade band was incredibly impressive. They performed many selections including: *Aura Lee*, *My Dreydl*, and *Ode to Joy*. The band club sounded great and were very enthusiastic! Liam Jacobs also played a lovely solo for us all. The 5th-8th grade band performed *The Thunderer*, *Hill and Gully Rider*, and *O Christmas Tree*. The unusual selections were challenging and the players did their best to entertain the crowd.



Wildcat Chat



Winter sports are back in full force at The Woods. Both our girls and boys basketball teams are halfway through their seasons and are looking good. Both teams have had a few impressive wins and a couple of tough losses, but the players are having a ton of fun and are learning important life lessons along the way.

The Lady Wildcats are currently 3-3 overall and 2-1 in conference play, with their only loss coming by way of Arbor Montessori, last year's M.A.A.C. Division three champions. This year's team is split directly in half between four 7th/8th graders and four 5th graders, which creates an interesting dynamic. Thus far the girls have certainly faced their challenges. Their average roster consists of about five players per game and their average height can't be much taller than 5'3", but no one has let those obstacles stand

in their way! The girls have kept positive optimistic attitudes and have done a great job of having fun out on the floor, no matter the circumstances. I've been impressed with how much they've grown already and I'm excited to see them prosper in the future. We think they're going to surprise themselves with how well they finish this season!

Perhaps all of that growth and early success has something to do with their experienced coach, Mr. Jim Stuart. Mr. Stuart is back again to lead the Ladies this year and he brings with him a plethora of knowledge and experience. He has coached basketball at McGinnis Woods for a number of years and enjoys the opportunity to impart his wisdom to the girls and boys who participate. Mr. Stuart demonstrates his patience and understanding with the girls ever-changing schedules outside of the team's activities, too, but Mr. Stuart and the girls have been "rolling with the flow" quite well thus far! Mr. Stuart relishes the opportunity to continue to help these young athletes progress in their skills and abilities and is excited for what lies ahead.

The boys are currently 3-4 overall and 2-3 in conference play, with wins against Swift and Springmont. The team has a similar resemblance to the girls in terms of our differentiation in grade levels and experience. We have fifteen participants, seven of which are 5th graders and eight are 6th-8th graders. The boys have faced their own set of challenges this season, as well. Perhaps none bigger than our difficulty rebounding the ball. This fundamental concept has plagued us since day one, however, the team is showing improvement in their rebounding abilities and continue to progress. The boys have been a joy to coach thus far as the passion/excitement the athletes bring to the court everyday is exceptional. It's easy to see their interest in the game and their desire to do well. We think they too will outperform their expectations this year.

As always, thank you all for your continued participation and support of the Wildcat athletic program. Helping these young men and women grow and mature in their games, education and lives as a whole, is what it's all about and we're thankful that you provide us that opportunity! Let's continue to encourage the kids to pursue excellence in everything they do. "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit"-Aristotle.



GO WILDCATS!!!!

4th Graders Visit Shakespeare's Tavern



On December 5th, our Fourth Grade class went to the Shakespeare Tavern to see an adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. The intimate setting brought the show to life and was truly remarkable. There were eleven actors, on a small stage, that held everyone's attention for 1 ½ hour performance. We sat in the front row of the balcony which allowed us to see and hear everything! As an added bonus, during Intermission, we ate our lunches we brought from home. Here are some of the student's thoughts about the show:

"I would give the play an 8 out of 10 because I thought they needed to use more props," said Joey.

"I liked it because it wasn't scary and it actually had funny parts," said Leah.

"I thought it was so funny and my favorite part was the end where Scrooge said he was going to raise Bob Cratchit's salary," said Christian.

Mrs. Tammy and Mrs. Susan love the Christmas seasons, so they were happy to share this special time with their students and wish all of the McGinnis Woods family the very merriest of Holidays!



Technology Changes Happening at McGinnis Woods

In September we announced a broad strategic plan to advance our school's entire technology portfolio. We are so pleased to provide you with an update.

Significant network upgrades have been completed in our elementary and middle school buildings with even more scheduled over winter break. We have also rolled out an entirely new wireless network in our elementary building and the middle school is scheduled to roll out over winter break as well.

We are also less than a week away from our migration to the cloud. Staff and students will begin using Office 365 for email, file storage, Office applications and more when they return in January. This new suite of web-based applications reduces our dependency on physical infrastructure and empowers our teachers and students with amazing new tools.

Lastly, our plan includes equipping teachers and students with state of the art iPads and keyboard cases. These devices represent a whole new way for our students to learn, create and explore. Incorporating iPads into our regular curriculum allows us to add an amazing new dimension to learning. The versatility of this technology means endless possibilities for teachers and students alike.

Through the generosity of parents like you, the 2nd Annual Wildcat Fund has made it possible to rollout our very first classroom: the 2nd grade Fish. Over Thanksgiving break, Ms. Kim's room was upgraded with a new, large television screen and an iPad assigned to each student. This deployment was designed as a pilot to define all of the instructional and operational processes associated with implementing this new technology in the classroom.

Our iPad rollout is just getting started and we are excited to introduce this technology to the rest of the school. We are making rapid progress on our strategic plan and look forward to sharing even more updates with you soon!

3rd Annual Technology Fair Success



The McGinnis Woods Technology Fair was a fantastic event again this year, with all middle school students participating. Parents, elementary students, and friends were treated to some very creative projects, including inspired videos, artistic digital photographs, and a variety of robots!

Judges selected the top projects in each category to represent McGinnis Woods at the 2020 Technology Fair of Forsyth County, which will be held at Whitlock Elementary on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Students who placed 1st, 2nd or an honorable mention in their category have been invited to register to participate in the event.

Animation:

1. Eric Jacobs (7th)
2. Gianni Peluso (6th)

Audio Production:

1. Liam Jacobs (5th)
2. Rhidin Jasti (5th)

Digital Photography:

- 1 Mikayla Stuart (8th)
 2. Bridget Gallivan (8th)
- Honorable Mention: Pearson Flachbarth

Video Production:

1. Bailee Rogers (7th)
 2. Simon Triulzi (5th)
- Honorable Mention: Samuel Pate (8th)

Multimedia:

- Arjit Kandalai (5th)
 - Carson Phillips (8th)
- Honorable Mention: Sarah Burkett

3D Modeling:

1. Yael Veneziano (5th)
2. Ella Krauth (7th)

Project Programming:

1. Avery Anderson (6th)
 2. Carson Kim (6th)
- Honorable Mention: Ava Mehraban

Robotics:

1. Hunter Nobile (5th)
2. Pranish Mandava (6th)
2. Mackenzie Yurastis (5th)

Graphic Design:

- Ben Hamann (6th)
- Drew Evangelista (8th)
- Violet Reiter (6th)



5th and 6th grade Best in Show Winners:

1. Yael Veneziano
2. Avery Anderson

7th and 8th Grader Best in Show Winners:

1. Bailee Rogers
2. Mikayla Stuart

We wish our students the best of luck and cannot wait to hear about their county experiences at the state qualifier. Students who finish in 1st or 2nd place at the county level will be able to advance to the Georgia State competition which will take place at the Middle Georgia State University on March 14, 2020.

It's Spelling Bee Time!



Can you spell b-e-e?

It is hard to believe the time has arrived for the Spelling Bee. During the month of November students in Second thru Eighth grades competed in our annual Class Spelling Bees.

This year our word lists from Scripps were designed to be a bit more challenging for students. Nonetheless, our students rose to the occasion. Second thru Fourth grade students participated in oral class spelling bees. While our middle school students participated in a written class bee that was composed of spelling and vocabulary words.

After days of spelling class, representatives emerged from each grade level. Those students will represent their grade at the school spelling bees, which takes place in January. The class representatives and alternates are:

1st Grade - Mishka Patel and Chetana Polineni;

2nd Grade - Lucas Yurasits and Zainab Rahman

3rd Grade- Aurelian Fan-Jeanne and Trip Bowie

4th Grade- Sunay Konda and Aani Dinesh

5th Grade- Arjit Kandalai

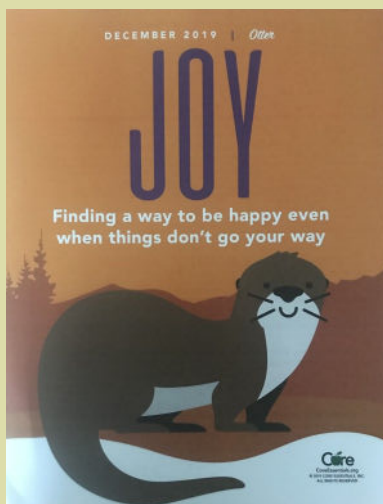
6th Grade- Benny Hamann

7th Grade- Harry Li

8th Grade- Mikayla Stewart

Kudos to all of our students for their hard work in studying and preparing for their bees. We are all so incredibly proud of you!

Learning About Joy



The Word of the Month for December is *Joy*. Our students have learned that joy is “finding a way to be happy even when things don’t go your way”. The students learned the importance of showing joy throughout the month during morning announcements and in their classes. Teachers identified exceptional students who have shown this trait throughout the month to be recognized and rewarded with special Chick-fil-A coupons on morning announcements. One student is also chosen as the Student of the Month and went out to a special lunch at Your Pie for pizza and ice cream.

The Word of the Month for January is *Knowledge*, which is defined as, “learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.”

Scholastic Book Fair Visits During Feast Week



There was “snow” much to read at our recent Scholastic Book Fair. Students were welcomed to snowflakes and holiday tinsel putting everyone in a mood to shop for books! Many students shopped on opening day full of excitement and eager to check everything out.

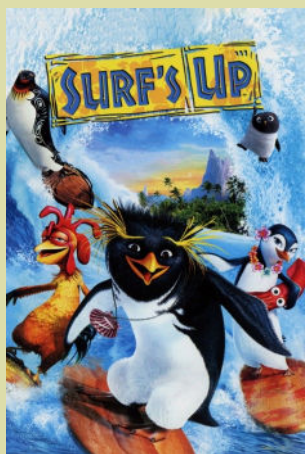
Each student completed a wish list filled with fabulous titles available at the fair. Our teachers also joined in by completing Classroom Wish Lists with great reads for their students. Families shopped throughout the day and especially after the Thanksgiving Feasts. It was the best time to shop!

Special treats for students were the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid book and of course, all of the Frozen II books. Star Wars and Lego Superheroes were highlights among elementary students and our middle school students were excited to find new Graphic Novels to read.

Thank you for supporting our mission to inspire a love of reading with McGinnis Woods students. Due to your patronage, books were purchased for every classroom at our school. We hope you have a wonderful holiday and we will see you in the spring at the next fair!



Winter Break Fun

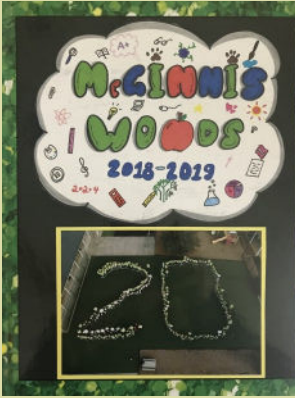


Staying in town for the holidays? Spend your winter break here at McGinnis Woods! Come enjoy fun activities, exciting adventures and time with good friends. We have special field trips planned throughout winter break in addition to fun activities every day. Pre-K through Eighth grade will go to Aurora Cineplex to see the movie, “*Surf's Up*” and enjoy a snack pack on Friday, December 27th. The children will also venture out to Build-a-Bear at North Point Mall on Friday, January 3rd where they will make a holiday furry friend to name and take home.

We hope that you choose to spend your holiday break making memories with us!

McGinnis Woods students that are currently in our After School program will not incur an additional fee. McGinnis Woods students not enrolled in after school who would like to drop in and enrolled Public School students are \$45.00/day. We hope you will join us for the fun!

Help Wanted



The first half of this school year is coming to a close and we have done so many amazing things that we would like to include in the 2019-2020 yearbook. Ms. Kim, Yearbook editor, and her staff are currently collecting pictures for the yearbook and we need your help, so please pull out your computers and grab your memory cards and help us create a yearbook to remember.

Please place your favorite school pictures on a labeled Jump Drive and turn them into Ms. Kim, your child's homeroom teacher or the front desk of either the pre-school or elementary school. We are looking for your child's classroom pictures including photos from parties, special events, field trips, Citizen of the Month trips, sporting events, International Day, Technology Fair, Project Showcase, Fall Festival, the Feasts, Sing A Long, upcoming Valentine's Dance, Science Fair, Discovery Clubs, and School Clubs. Our hope is to capture pictures of all the

things we do that make McGinnis Woods extra special.

Ms. Kim and her team have already run a yearbook cover and back cover competition this fall. The colorful entries were outstanding and so very hard to choose between. The winner of the cover and back cover competition will be announced in May.

When we return to school in January, families will be given the opportunity to purchase Dedication and Ad pages which will be prominently displayed in the yearbook. The dedication pages are always one of the many highlights of our beautiful yearbooks.

Ms. Kim and her team thank you for supporting this exciting project. Our yearbook will be unveiled on Yearbook Signing day in May. It is sure to be an amazing keepsake for all to cherish for years to come and your photos may be included to the delight of all.

Former McGinnis Woods Students Signs Pro Ball Contract



The Faculty and Staff of McGinnis Woods love to hear about former students and their many accomplishments. We recently learned that former McGinnis Woods student, Matthew Vonderschmidt, was in the news as he signed a professional Baseball Contract for the coming season. Matthew attended McGinnis Woods for many years in its early years and his mother, Pam Evans was our first Parent Association presidents.

Both Ms. Kim and Mr. Josh taught Matthew and they have funny memories of the spunky, fun loving boy who always wanted to grow up and be a "Baseball Player".

Matthew attend Lambert High School and went on to earn his teaching degree at Piedmont College

where he was a star athlete and a dedicated student. He actually holds the best earned run average in Piedmont's school history.

Matthew will be playing for the Gateway Grizzlies of the Frontier Independent League in Illinois beginning this Spring. We are so pleased for Matthew and happy that "Dreams really do come true"!



Jr. Beta Club



This has been a busy time for the Jr. Beta Club. We held a food drive benefiting Meals by Grace and a local elementary school. Students are in the process of creating bags of food to make weekend food bags for many students attending the school. We were amazed by the outpouring of generosity in our community as the Jr. Beta students emptied collection bin after collection bin to make more room for donations. In all, we collected over 2,000 food items. We are so thankful for our school community's support.

The Jr. Beta students also coordinated an ice cream day to raise funds to supplement items needed for our weekend food bags. The students in Kindergarten through 8th grade who participated enjoyed their ice cream sandwiches for a cause.

Jr. Beta students also completed many hours of service outside of their school day to meet their membership requirements. Various students ran the concession stand and the score board during basketball games. They also helped out during Jr. Robotics classes and Parents Night Out. Some students volunteered to rake leaves, put up lights, garden, and help with crafts in their own neighborhoods. We also had a group of students be bell ringers for the Salvation Army. We are proud of our students and the many ways that they have spread joy and given back.

Meet our Second Grade Team



The 2nd Grade Fish are having an amazing year. Ms. Kim Kershaw and Ms. Constance Nelson team together to make each and every day special for this inquisitive and fun loving group of 2nd graders.

Ms. Kim grew up outside of Rochester, NY and graduated with her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and Sociology from SUNY Brockport. She married her hubby of 20 years, Brad, a police officer, and moved to Atlanta. She completed her Masters in Early Childhood Education at Georgia State while working here at McGinnis Woods. This will be her 21st year at the school where she has taught everything from Pre-K through 6th grade. She is very at home teaching second grade as this is her fifteenth year at this grade level. She has two precious girls, Tori who graduated from The Woods and is now a Junior at River Ridge High School and Julie Belle who is in the 8th Grade here at McGinnis Woods. Outside of school she loves to travel with her girls, attend concerts, movies and sporting events with her family and friends and play fantasy football.

Ms. Constance is from Jackson, Mississippi. Ms. Constance moved to Atlanta this past summer and this is her first year working at McGinnis Woods, although she has worked as an assistant teacher in the past. She is the second oldest of four siblings in her family. One of her favorite childhood memories was going home each day from school and playing school with her siblings. Teaching her five-year-old brother to add and subtract made her realize that she had the potential to help others. She attended Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi and received her Bachelor's degree in Biology. It was there that she met her boyfriend, Willie, and they share a beautiful daughter named Olivia. She is two years old and loves to sing, dance and learn new things.

Ms. Kim and Ms. Constance enjoy working to meet their students' needs through engaging lessons and a wide variety of groupings. One of their favorite activities each month is hosting Borders from Canine Assistants when he comes to read with the students. You never know what surprises these teachers have in store for their school of fish!

1st Graders Make Bears to Give Away!

This time of year is often called “the season of giving”. Have you ever notice that there is something about the holidays that bring about a sense of generosity and love for your fellow man inside each and everyone of us more than any other time of the year? However, for many young children they have their eyes on the prize! Their focus is on gifts, gifts and more gifts! For young ones, this time of year would more accurately be labeled, “the season of getting”!

In an effort to help our students understand and appreciate all the good things they already have, our school does our best to teach the children at an early age the JOY that comes with *giving*. After a few discussions about how fortunate each and every student in our class is to have good health, loving families, and *enough toys to fill the back of a truck*, all of the first graders in our school made the choice to give to someone in need rather than receive more. Every year in early December, the first grade classes take a field trip to the Build-A-Bear Workshop to make cute, adorable Bears to donate to “wish families” sponsored by the Children’s Wish Foundation. After making these small, huggable friends, the students take another field trip to the Children’s Wish Foundation's World Headquarters in Roswell, GA to (*somewhat reluctantly*) drop off their bears.

The angelic employees of this organization not only make a big deal about the Bears we drop off, but they also give our students a tour of the facilities to help the kids better understand what they do and why they do it. After they finish the process, the students are always happy that they did not keep the Bears, but rather chose to send them to someone who truly needs them. We are SO



PROUD of our first graders. They are beginning to develop a thoughtful and compassionate view of the world around them and that’s what the Holidays should be about!



Student Council Update



Student council had a representative meeting early in December and made cute snowman treat cups to show our appreciation for our teachers and school staff. The students have also been working on placing orders for our school store which will be opening the week we return from break. The new home of our store will be located in our newly remodeled concession stand now called the Wildcat Market. We have ordered many new novelty items to sell along with school staples like lined paper and notebooks. Be on the lookout for a flyer highlighting some of our new items in 2020 and come check us out.



New Discovery Session Beginning in January



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

The Third session of Discovery Clubs begin on January 6 when we return from Winter Break. This session will include some exciting and unique clubs. Jr. Robotics, Football Club, STEM Club, Robotics Team, Painting Club, Debate Club, Music Club, Cooking, Math Club and Drama will be offered. All clubs will end the week of February 17, unless make up classes are needed. We look forward to another wonderful session. Be sure to hand in your forms before the classes fill, so that your student can participate in these wonderful activities.



Service and Sweets Community Helpers



The Middle School students participated in its annual Service and Sweets program during November. In years past, our students have done different activities to help within our school community and the community at large. This year our students pitched in again to make a difference for others. Our middle school students in 5th-8th grade joined forces to help throughout our preschool, elementary school and middle school. Students organized class libraries and labeled AR books, organized and filed Spanish work, helped decorate for the sweets portion of the day, read to and

helped younger students. Students also spruced up our outdoor classroom area and café! Our school also ran a food drive in November to benefit Meals By Grace and many of our students helped to package up these items, load them on the bus, and deliver the items.

After the middle school students had done their part to help in our community they performed for family and friends and enjoyed some well-earned treats. We are so proud and thankful for our wildcats!



Pictures from Around the School

