



McGinnis Woods Buzz

February 2022, Volume 16, Issue 2



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

*Inspiring Students with
the Passion to Excel*

The latest buzz . . .

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DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2/13-2/18 | Kindness Week |
| 2/14 | Happy Valentine’s Day! Candygrams Delivered |
| 2/15-2/16 | 2nd and 4th In-House Field Trips Harriet Tubman Production |
| 2/18 | 1st In-House Field Trip Center for Puppetry Arts |
| 2/21 | School Closed After School Only Presidents Day |
| 2/22 | Wildcat Wear Day! |
| 2/23 | Kindergarten In-House Field Trip Science Wiz |
| 2/25 | Science Fair Booklets and Notecards Due Jr. Beta Club Cookie Sale |
| 3/2 | Wildcat Book Day |
| Week of 3/7 | Discovery Clubs Begin |

A Message From Ms. Mary

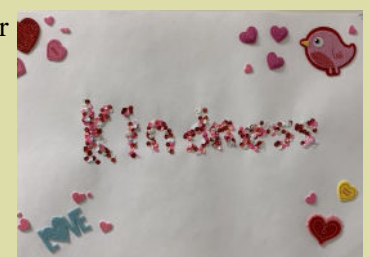
February is a special time at McGinnis Woods. The students have settled into a comfortable routine and apply themselves and relish the opportunity to broaden their minds and work with their classmates and teachers. The students have gained a level of confidence and comfort which I am pleased and amazed to see during these unusual days. The teachers have gotten to know their students’ strengths and weaknesses and have learned when to coax, when to push and, of course, when to celebrate their accomplishments both large and small. Our teachers are amazing and the heartbeat of our school!

February is also known for Black History Month, Dental Health Month, Presidents Day, and Valentine’s Day. The students have learned so much about amazing Black Americans who have contributed to our history in significant ways and changed the course of the United States. This year we also celebrated Kindness Week which was a huge success and encouraged our students to focus on what really matters.... Caring for others and spreading kindness and joy.

We are excited to announce that we will begin going off campus for some field trips and are planning for the first overnight trips since 2019! There is so much enthusiasm for the overnight trips and we are confident that our students will learn a tremendous amount while participating in these unique trips. Children in 1st-3rd grades will enjoy their trips along with a parent. Children in 4th-8th will attend along with McGinnis Woods teachers. Our first graders will spend a night at Zoo Atlanta, the second graders will sleep in a cave at Desoto Caverns, the third graders will sleep with the sharks at the Georgia Aquarium, fourth graders will learn about nature and history on top of Lookout Mountain at Nature’s Classroom, the 5th-7th graders will participate in team building activities at the 4H Fortson Center, and our 8th graders will participate in the Close-up Program in Washington DC. Providing enriching opportunities for our students is an important aspect of our curriculum and is very important to our teaching team.

Please enjoy reading about the exciting happenings at our school.

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

Hello McGinnis Woods Wildcats!

Just before winter break, we surprised all of our teachers and staff with a fantastic pair of wireless EarPods to use with their favorite device! This "Random Act of Kindness" was our way of saying thank you and happy holidays to the incredible team here at McGinnis Woods!

We continue to make great progress with purchases from our 4th Annual Wildcat Fund! The guitars have been on campus since Thanksgiving and Mr. Daniel started introducing guitar skills to our third graders right away. We are so excited for every student to have an opportunity to play the guitar! Our Virtual Reality headsets have arrived and we'll be conducting staff training in the near future. Once that is complete, your student can expect an amazing virtual reality experience coming soon! Lastly, we're getting excited making plans for our amphitheater and can't wait to begin on the project. This will be a warm-weather project, so we're hoping for an early start to Spring! Thank you again to all of our generous donors for making incredible things happen at our school!

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

Upcoming Events

Teacher Appreciation Week - Week of March 7th

Each year, we celebrate our teachers and staff for an entire week to let them know just how special they are! This year's teacher appreciation week will be packed full of fun surprises. There will be several opportunities for families and students to contribute to the festivities, so keep an eye out for information that will be coming home later this month!

Meet your 2021-2022 PA Board

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

Jason Harper - President
Jaclyn Anderson - Vice President
Aimee Nobile - Board Member
Jean Greer-Lawrence - Board Member
Hally Patel - Board Member
Sonya Dame - Board Member
Brandon Kingsbury - Board Member
Mary Johnson - Principal
Maria Rosdahl - Preschool Director



Get In Touch

You can get in touch with the PA Board through our website at [<https://unsafe:about:blank>]www.mcginniswoodspa.org or via email at pa@mcginniswoods.org

Preschool Corner



Happy 2022! So far this year we have learned about Ringing in the New Year, Day and Night, Ice and Snow, Artic Animals, Friends, and Emotions! Each of our little ones have learned so much through our hands-on learning activities.

Our Sr. Infant class with Ms. Kim and Ms. Pilar have been extra busy with our little ones this month. The babies have been working hard on sitting up, crawling, and eating table foods. We can't wait to watch them achieve even more in the coming days! The Transitional classrooms with Ms. Vickie and Ms. Jyo have been practicing their fine/ gross motor skills while dancing with scarves, lacing emotion faces, putting together puzzles, and so much more. Our 3B class with Ms. Angie has been extra busy practicing letters sounds, writing their names, and making new friends! Our $\frac{3}{4}$ A class led by Ms. Kara and Ms. Theressa participated in an activity to help "rescue"

frozen artic animals by adding water to ice to help thaw the ice and set the plastic animals free. They also had so much fun making "snow angels" in shredded paper. We have so many more exciting activities planned in the upcoming months, so be sure to check in your child's backpack for coming events!



McGinnis Woods Partners with Publix



Did you know that McGinnis Woods is part of the Publix Partners program? This is an easy way to help our school earn money through your weekly shopping trips. To enroll in the program, visit www.publix.com/partners, select our school and enter your phone number. Remember to enter your phone number each time you check out to help our school.

Wildcat Chat

Hello Wildcat Sports Fans!

Our Basketball Winter Sports program has concluded, and we are very proud of the boys and girls that played this year. Our Girls' team was led by Coach Ryan. The young team of mostly 5th and 6th graders showed great improvement week after week. Shviti, Persia, and Afsheen S. were great rebounders and defenders; and Mayson, Afsheen M, Nuzhat, Sydney, Zuha, and Sophia did a superb job of bringing the ball up court and playing aggressive defense. We look forward to seeing what they can do again next year when they return!

The Boys' team was led by Coach Roger Gallivan. The 21 boys played very well together; and their season record was 6 wins and 4 losses. They played with great spirit and aggressiveness in the playoffs versus the eventual conference champions. Akhil, Benny, Tristan, Liam, Peyton, Aaron, Taz, Raiyan, Jacob, and Simon were a force to be reckoned with on the boards with their great rebounding; and Joseph, Will, Marty, Martin, Kevin, Maddox, Asher, Ben R, Arvin, Arjit, and Anderson were skillful ball-handlers and defenders. A big thank you to Heather Young as our unofficial Team Mom who kept the players fed, hydrated, and energized!

The Spring Sports season is upon us, and we are looking forward to a great season with our Boys and Girls Track team. Coach Ryan, Coach Lisa G, and Coach Jen will be training our athletes in long and short distance running events, throwing events, and relays.

Thanks for your continued support, involvement, and encouragement.

Coach C



Go Wildcats!

STEM Learning is Great!

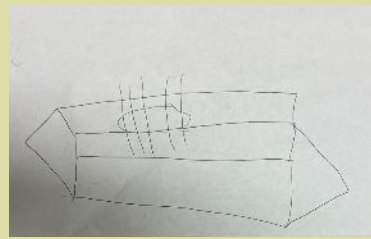


Combining music and STEM is so fun! Mr. Daniel, music teacher, and Miss Emily, STEM, worked together to create a project that would inspire the students. Students in the primary classes were challenged to design and build musical instruments from materials commonly found at home. Some materials brought from home were shoe boxes, rubber bands, buttons, pebbles, coins, tape, string, and more.

The K/1 Bears and 1st Falcons recently began the design process for their new inventions. They worked to draw their designs on paper. Their goal during the next few STEM classes is to bring their instruments to life. Many students have invented unique, completely new instruments.

The building process has already begun in the second grade Gnomes class. One Gnome, Paolo, invented a simple instrument that makes a strong bass note when you pull on the rubber bands. All of our friends are learning how to use their instruments to not only make sounds, but to follow rhythmic patterns, too.

Since STEM incorporates much of our curriculum, we hope to create more collaborations with other specials and subjects into STEM class!



And the Word of the Month is....



The Word of the Month for February is Compassion. Compassion is defined as, "Caring enough to do something about someone else's need."

Throughout each month, students have been learning about the meaning and the importance of the character word of the month on the daily announcements and in counseling classes with Ms. Kathy. Students are encouraged to live out the word through videos and daily thoughts which focus on the character trait.

Our school is filled with many compassionate students; Students who lend a hand to someone in need, say an encouraging word to a person who is feeling down or just go out of their way to show kindness to another. The teachers are on the lookout for exceptional students showing this character trait. These exceptional students will be acknowledged with a Chick-fil-A gift card on the morning announcements. One child will also be chosen as the Citizen of the Month from each K-8th class for a special pizza lunch from YOUR PIE on Wednesday, February 23rd.

Middle School Teachers Lead the Way



The Middle School Team at McGinnis Woods has over 75 years of teaching experience. They are passionate about working with the students and enjoy imparting new information about their content areas. The core content teachers partner with the specials teachers to provide a well-rounded robust program for the middle schoolers.

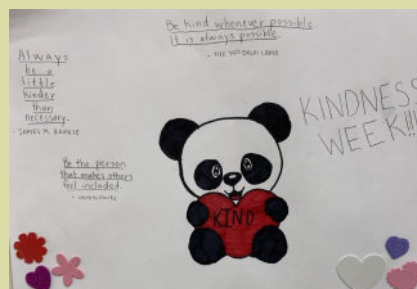
Ms. Nicole Seltzer's has been teaching social studies for fourteen years. This is her twenty-second year at McGinnis Woods. Ms. Nicole was the 2017-2018 recipient of Teacher of the Year at McGinnis Woods. She received her master's degree in the Art of Teaching from Mercer University. When not teaching, she is busy watching her high school son's football games or is volunteering in scouts with her husband, Jeff, in both her daughter's BSA Troop and her son's Venture Crew. Ms. Nicole works each day to make history come alive for each of her classes.

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, and at another private school in Georgia. This is her twenty-fourth year teaching math and her sixteenth year at McGinnis Woods. Ms. Pam enjoys the "light bulb" moments with her students in math. In her spare time, she enjoys curling up with a good book.

Ms. Silja Rajendran teaches math in the Middle School. She has a post-graduate degree in Physics and Math, as well as a bachelor's degree in education. Ms. Silja has fifteen years of teaching experience. When she is not teaching, she enjoys cooking and watching movies.

Ms. Veena Ronad is enjoying her first year teaching science at McGinnis Woods. She has seven years of experience teaching Science and Chemistry to middle and high school students. She completed her Master of Science and Bachelor of Education from Gulbarga University, India. She is passionate about science and chemistry. She and her husband have been happily married for eleven years and they have two children. Their oldest son Rishith is in 3rd grade and their daughter, Saanvi, is one year old. Ms. Veena enjoys singing and dancing. She loves being in nature and visiting places of historical importance.

Ms. Jaime Espinel has six years of teaching experience. This is her first 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 years. Together they have two beautiful boys, Luke (7 years) and Logan (4 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).



Discovery Clubs

McGinnis Woods Discovery Clubs are 6-week long clubs that are offered 4 times a year. We are now completing our third session of Discovery Clubs. This session included Cartooning Club, Chess and Game Club, Jr Cooking and Cooking, JR Robotics, Battle Bots, and Team Sports- Track & Field. Clubs are a fantastic way for students to learn new skills or refine current skills while enjoying time with friends and teachers.

Cartooning Club (Grades K -4) students with Ms. Tanya learned to draw a variety of characters and created their own as well. Students also created comic strips and single panel cartoons.

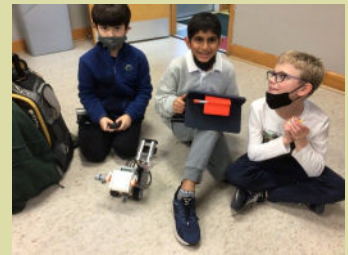
Chess/Game Club (Grades 2- 4) Ms. Kathy and students enjoyed playing Board Games and Chess. Students had competitive fun with a variety of board games, while others battled chess skills.

JR Cooking (Pre-K) and Cooking (K - Grade 4) Ms. Valorie focused on experimenting with different varieties of foods' textures and colors through easy, fun, and yummy recipes that students could also make at home.

Jr Robotics (Pre-K - Grade 3) Ms. Wendy led the fun club that encouraged the students to use their creative minds to research, design, and build unique structures with Lego kits.

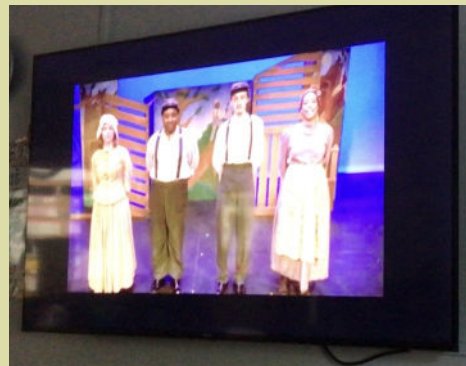
Battle Bots (Grades 4 -8) Ms. Wendy led this fun robot competition. Students built, programed and battled their uniquely designed robots until a champion was crowned at the end of the session.

The final session of Discovery Clubs for this school year will begin on March 6. This session will include Jr. Robotics, Battle Bots, Ceramics Club, Debate Club, Chess and Board Games, Gardening, and Sports for PreK



Students Learn About Harriet Tubman

A number of our classes enjoyed their recent in-house field trip of the 'Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad' production. The live performance captured the joys, sorrows, and challenges that Harriet Tubman faced during her struggle to fight against slavery. The students learned that Harriet Tubman helped change the world through her bravery and courage. The production taught many important events while the students gained a deeper understanding of who Harriet Tubman was as a crucial figure that shaped history.



Annual Science Fair



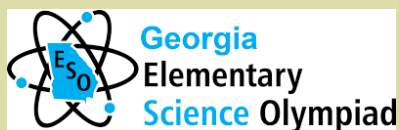
McGinnis Woods has begun its annual Science Fair competition! Informational packets were sent home at the end of January, and the experiment topics were due February 4th. Students in grades second through eighth are busily preparing science fair projects at home about the topics of their choice.

Students have chosen a wide variety of topics by choosing a question or creating a hypothesis and will complete an experiment to see what results will occur. Once their experiments are completed and the data has been gathered, students will draw their conclusions and determine if their initial hypothesis were correct. Following the scientific method can be challenging, yet we are excited that our students are learning how to implement the steps. Then the students will complete a project which highlights the Scientific Method.

The second through fourth grade students will make tri-fold boards to display and middle school students will complete a Power Point Presentation. Final projects are due on March 14th when students will orally present their projects. The top four projects from each grade level will move on to compete in the school wide Science Fair Competition! Winners will be announced at our Virtual STEM Night event on March 24th. We can't wait to see all of the amazing projects!



Science Olympiad



The McGinnis Woods Science Olympiad Team has been busily practicing every Wednesday afterschool to prepare for the ESO Regional Competition on March 19, 2022. We will be competing at Hillgrove High School in Cobb County. This all day event will be a fun challenge for our amazing team of 18 students in grades third through sixth. The team members work each week on studying different topics such as weather, diseases, astronomy, rocks and more! The team also works to complete STEM challenges each week. Some of the STEM challenges that the students will have to complete at Regionals are barge building, bridge building, egg drop, paper rockers, water rockets and more. Stay tuned for our team's results!



Jr. Beta Club



Our Jr. Beta Club members organized McGinnis Woods' first ever Random Acts of Kindness Week. This week, February 14-18 was originally designed to create a culture of kindness in schools, homes and communities. At McGinnis Woods, our Jr. Beta Club planned some of the activities for the week including spirit dress down days, poster making, and acknowledging students who showed kindness in our school community on the morning announcements.

Additionally, Jr. Beta Club organized the first cookie day of this year which happened on February 25th. The students took cookie orders and will help to deliver them to spread a little joy after lunch.



Summer Camp Fun is on the Way



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

All our field trips will be in-house this summer to ensure we are keeping our campers and staff safe. We will have many exciting trips guests visiting us like Magician Ken Scott, Zoo Atlanta, The Sand Art Cart and The Science Wiz.

We will offer many Specialty and Academic Camps that offer a variety of educational ways to sharpen your skills and expand your minds during the summer. Some of these exciting Camps include several different culinary options, Fun with STEM, Pottery Classes, Jr. and Sr. Robotics, and many art options.

You do not want to miss out on any of the fun during our Sunsational Summer Camp and we hope to see you this summer! We have sent home Summer Camp information to your student, and you can find more information on our website at www.mcginniswoods.org.



Student Council



Student Council has been very busy during the month of February. Members have sent out and gathered order forms for the wildly popular candygram tradition. They also attached candy to over 1300 valentines during their recent meetings as they fulfilled orders for their annual fundraiser. The valentines were delivered on Valentine's Day by the festive officers and brightened students' and teachers' days while spreading many smiles and giggles.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we teach our students to care for and serve others in our school community.



2-22-22: Happy Palindrome Day:



February 22, 2022 was a very special day at McGinnis Woods. This day was met with tutus and ties, fun activities and more. "Twosday" or Palindrome Day was extra special because it will not happen again for another 400 years!

You may be wondering what is a palindrome? You can ask our students because they will tell you. A palindrome is a number that can be read the same way backwards or forward... what's more, 22-02-2022 is also an ambigram because it is the same upside down. This was definitely a special day to note!



Keep Forsyth Beautiful Builds Awareness

Keep Forsyth County Beautiful (KFCB) is a local affiliate of the national Keep America Beautiful program and the state Keep Georgia Beautiful program. The core focus areas of KFCB are waste reduction and recycling, beautification and community greening, litter prevention and reduction, and water quality.

Our students enjoyed another visit with Apryl from Keep KFCB on February 9th.

Our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade classes learned about, “Our Friends the Frogs; Frogs and Community Science.”

The students learned how weather, plants, animals, and humans cause changes to the environment. This program combined a fact filled power point, frog call identification, and a “symphony of frogs” group activity. Students discovered that frogs are bioindicators and help scientists determine water quality, learned to tell the difference between frogs and toads, and used audio clues to be introduced to different frog calls.

Our 3rd & 4th Grade classes learned about, “Water Wonders, The Incredible Journey.”

Students learned how the water cycle is the system by which Earth’s fixed amount of water is collected, purified, and distributed from the environment to living things and back to the environment. Through a lesson and activity students were introduced to the water cycle and built a bracelet demonstrating how no two trips throughout the water cycle are identical. Students described the various components of the water cycle and the path a water molecule might take on its way through this cycle, explained how the water cycle is important to all living things, and were able to describe how plants affect the movement of water in a watershed.

Our 5th – 8th Grade student’s program was a hands-on experience: “Custom Designed Adopt-A-Stream Workshop.”

This hands-on water quality program brought students to an outdoor classroom where they learned the importance of oxygen levels on an aquatic ecosystem. Students used chemical test kits to determine the health of their local waterways.

If you would like to learn more about Keep Forsyth County Beautiful, volunteer, or have questions about household or hazardous waste/recycling in our area, please visit: www.keepforsythcountybeautiful.org



Specials Teachers Help to Make Each Day Special!

The curriculum at McGinnis Woods is rich and engaging. Each week the students learn about physical education, art, music, health, library, character education, and STEM. Our specials teachers create wonderful hands-on lessons which bring their lessons to life. These photos are of some of our students' favorite specials including Ms. Tanya, art teacher, Mr. Jim, physical education and Ms. Emily, STEM Instructor.



Thanks to Mirage Pro for a Job Well Done

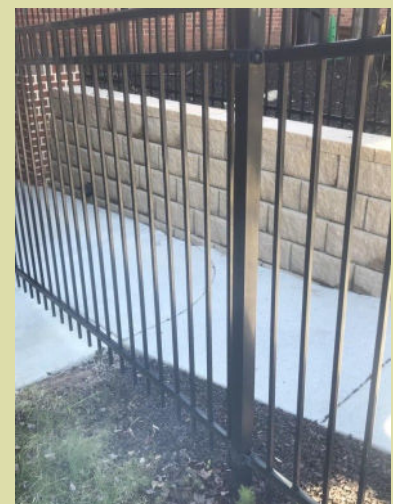
McGinnis Woods hired Mirage Pro to complete quite a bit of power washing throughout the school campus. They did a great job and helped to make the campus look fresh and clean. The company was easy to work with, so we want to share their information with our school community as a huge thanks!

MIRAGE PRO
ROOF & EXTERIOR
SOFT WASHING

WHAT IS SOFT WASHING?
We follow your roof manufacturer's recommendations and use the appropriate cleaning solution (algae resistant) along with a Very Low-pressure application method to make your roof look like new. Additionally, this extends the life of your roof saving you from more costly repairs in the future.

Soft washing is a cleaning method that uses a low pressure washing technique, along with a mixture of algaecides, bleach, surfactants and water, to safely clean exterior surfaces of organic stains, mildew and algae. Soft Washing should be used on surfaces that are notoriously hard to get clean with pressure or would be damaged if one were to use high pressure on them such as windows, roof shingles, screens, wood paneling, etc. Soft washing was originally designed for the purpose of cleaning algae off of roof shingles.

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See Other Side for Pictures of Our Work!



Pictures from Around the School

