



# McGinnis Woods Buzz

March 2025 Volume 18, Issue 3



*Inspiring Students with  
the Passion to Excel*

## The latest buzz . . .

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## A Message From Ms. Mary

March is here and the final quarter of the school year has begun. This month kicked off with our fantastic Teacher Appreciation Week hosted by the McGinnis Woods Parent Association. Thank you to the many parents who volunteered and made the week extra special. This year's theme "The Best Teachers in the World" aptly describes the team of teachers and staff of McGinnis Woods. They are incredibly committed to our school community and consistently go above and beyond to meet the needs of each child and to make learning fun and engaging. Our desire to inspire students with the passion to excel drives our continuous improvement efforts as we strive to shape lifelong learners who are curious, confident and kind.

This month has also kicked off our final season of middle school athletics. This season our students are enjoying being involved in Track and Field and Tennis. Our coaches enjoy developing our young athletes' skills and character while cheering them on through the ups and downs of the seasons.

March is also Science Fair time! The students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade created amazing science projects at home which were guided by grade level rubrics. They have been on display throughout the school so that each student may learn from their peers' research and presentation of the scientific method. Tonight is our annual STEM Family Fun Night. Our theme this year is STEM in sports. Each grade level has planned a wide variety of activities which will make learning hands-on and extra fun! At the conclusion of the evening, the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place class Science Fair winners will be announced! The tri-fold boards will be on display so that you, too, can see the work of our students. We hope that you will join us.

Standardized Testing Week is right around the corner scheduled for April 14-April 18. The students in 2<sup>nd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade will be testing each morning and will complete a battery of tests known as ERB CTP5 tests. The tests vary by grade level and cover many content areas including Math, Language Arts, and Analytical Reasoning. The information gleaned from these test results will be useful as we continue to improve our school curriculum and prepare our students for their futures. More information will be shared about the test at the end of the month.

This year is flying by and each day I marvel at and am thankful for the tremendous growth and change that our students are making. Their joy and excitement for learning is contagious and they make each day unique and memorable. The team at McGinnis Woods is really special and we are blessed to have such a wonderful community of learners.

Happy Spring,

*Ms. Mary*



### DATES TO REMEMBER

3/20	The 1st Day of Spring Spring Photos
3/20	Kindergarten Field Trip Atlanta Botanical Gardens
3/30	STEM Family Fun Night 6:00-7:30pm
3/21	Parents Night Out 5:30-10:00pm
3/25	Citizen of the Month Lunch
3/26	PreK Field Trip Atlanta Gladiator Game
3/27	2nd Field Trip Animal Wildlife Refuge
3/27	Track Meet at Davis Academy
3/31 - 4/4	Spring Break

## 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



The Parent Association (PA) would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the families, teachers and friends of McGinnis Woods School who participated by giving to the **7th Annual Wildcat Fund**. If you would like to still give to the Wildcat Fund please email [pa@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:pa@mcginniswoods.org). We are pleased to announce that all the items were ordered for this year's Wildcat Fund and the students have started enjoying the purchases already :). We are excited for the install of our brand new sports court over spring break, we will share pictures once the project is complete! During the 2nd and 3rd semester the PA continued to celebrate our student body with the annual **Holiday Shoppe**, this event allowed students to purchase gifts and surprise family, friends, teachers, pets and more, **Eflie the Elf** was there and brought a lot of holiday cheer! In January the PA supplied each teacher with


a **snuggie** and brought in hot coffee and donuts and in February the PA



hosted the **Cupid Shuffle Valentine's Day Dance**, this event was for the entire family, if you have not experienced the McGinnis Woods



School Valentine's Day Dance, we welcome you to join us next year as it's truly a wonderful time! To kick off the month of March the PA hosted Teacher Appreciation week, where all teachers and staff from the daycare to the middle school were celebrated, we truly believe we have the **Best Teachers in The World!** Below is the annual PA calendar that lists our remaining events for the school year.



**McGinnis Woods School - Parent Association**

*The Calendar*

2024-2025

Event	Planning Kick-Off	Actual Event Date
Wildcat Fund*	September 9, 2024	October 28 – November 30, 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

*Monthly Meetings: Monthly on Tuesday's at 6pm | In-person (school lunchroom) | Virtual Option available.  
 Meeting Dates: December 10<sup>th</sup>, January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
 For Questions – Email Us: [pa@mcginniswoods.org](mailto:pa@mcginniswoods.org)*

**Monthly Meetings** - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the school lunchroom. 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](mailto:pa@mcginniswoods.org)

**Thank you to this year's Parent Association Board Members:**  
 Steven Boos, President, Hally Patel, Vice President, Nsharra Gross, Secretary, and

## *Preschool Corner*



We've had a fun start to the year here at preschool! In January, we focused on learning about arctic animals, followed by a month in February exploring our community. In March, we celebrated Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday, alongside activities related to nursery rhymes and things that go.

Our Nursery and Senior Infants have enjoyed more outdoor play as the weather warms up. The babies love playing outside on picnic blankets or taking strolls around the playground. We also practice daily skills with the babies, including head lifting, reaching for toys, making sounds, and visually tracking objects.

The toddlers had a great time learning Frog Street nursery rhymes. They worked on putting together 6-9 piece puzzles, painted with watercolors, and enjoyed reading a variety of books to celebrate Read Across America Week. With warmer weather, the toddlers have also been spending more time on the playground, playing with their friends.



The transitional children have been busy practicing their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination using paint dotters with Ms. Tanya. Even as the weather warms, we've had a few colder days, and on those mornings, we've used our small gym for playtime. The children love playing various games, but their favorite activity by far is parachute play.



Our preschoolers have been exploring the theme of "Things That Go." They've had fun searching the playground for items with wheels and counting how many they found. They also enjoyed riding cars on masking tape tracks in our 3B classroom. With Spring approaching, we've done a variety of spring-themed activities, such as shadow searching outdoors and painting tulips with forks.

We're looking forward to Spring planting our garden in mid-April!



## *Green Team Helps to Keep the School Environment Green*



This year's Green Team led by Ms. Abby has been heading up the school's recycling. This fun group of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders love meeting weekly to collect the school recycling and to teach our younger students what can and cannot be recycled.

The team is looking forward to Earth Day which is on Tuesday, April 22 when they will lead the rest of the school in making our school more green. On Earth Day, students will participate in school-wide flower planting and a campus clean up. The students will also host Ms. Apryl from Keep Forsyth County Beautiful. She will encourage the children to take care of our environment and world through hands on activities.



## *Wildcat Chat by Coach Ricky*



The Wildcat track team is gearing up for our most competitive season yet! Led by our experienced 8th graders Shviti Chilkamari and James Devlin, we are focused on building on last season's success and striving for our first team championship. First-time sprinters Trip Bowie, Gabby Greene, and Bryson Aber have already posted impressive times in their races, while our dynamic 7th-grade middle-distance runners—Faye Jones, Ariel Kayakov, Xiya Ding are looking to contribute in not only distance races but relays, and field events. Speaking of field events, we're thrilled to see Skye Murphy jump an impressive 12'7" in the long jump at our first meet! This year, we are thrilled to welcome back Kevin Doyle, who will be competing in the

high hurdles, alongside Alaina Florez who is a first time to the hurdles. In the throws, veteran 8th grader Sydney Musembi and newcomer Anvi Jain are set to shine in both shot put and discus. With the team's talent and dedication, we're eager to see how the season unfolds. Our next meet will be an exciting opportunity to compete against other top middle schools in the North Atlanta area at the Mt. Pisgah Middle School Meet.

There is nothing quite like the scent of a new can of tennis balls and the fear when one of those balls go flying straight past your head. McGinnis Woods are bringing back Tennis for the first time in years! The McGinnis Woods Tennis team consists of all 5th and 6th grade students, but they are practicing like seasoned veterans. Some of these athletes have been taking lessons for years but have not truly competed until now. The first scheduled match is not until March 18th when we will take on a division rival in Heritage Preparatory School. These Student Athletes are excited to finally get out and show what they can do on the court. Our veteran Players Daniel Galton and Anishka Potharaju will be leading our Singles Lines, while the remainder of our team will be competing in Doubles matches. Our Doubles teams will consist of Vivian Demeideros, Maven Iliescu, Meredith Monnell, Noam Kayakov, Ahati Melke, and Delainie Pressley for the Girls and JC Ancarola, Leul Takele, Jaivik Divvela, Alex Grantham, and Harrison Sly for the Boys. Regardless of the outcome this season will be one to remember as we continue to grow and build the Tennis program at McGinnis Woods!

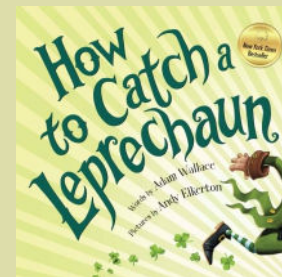


*Go Wildcats!*

## *Shamrock Shenanigans*



On St. Patrick's Day this year, students gathered with Ms. Abby, Ms. Amy, and Ms. Mary after school for a fun and festive afternoon. The children of all ages shared many laughs and smiles while making and enjoying rainbow themed snacks and green shamrock punch. They capped off the afternoon with the story *How to Catch a Leprechaun*.



## Middle School Happenings



The Middle School students recently visited the MIMM's Museum of Technology and Art, formerly known as the Computer Museum of America. MIMM's Museum of Technology and Art preserves stories and artifacts from the digital age while educating and inspiring visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

Students were able to see computers used in the Apollo missions, supercomputers, an enigma machine from WWII which the Germans used to encode messages, and a timeline of the development of personal computers, including the first piece of Apple technology! Students learned about encoding messages and got to practice decoding messages themselves.

These photos show (top) students with one of the 30 enigma machines in the world and (bottom) decoding Morse Code and leaning Caesar Ciphers



## Alice In Wonderland



The Drama Club has been hard at work preparing for their spring debut of Alice in Wonderland, Jr. The performers and crew directed by Mr. Bryant and Ms. Liz are working to bring this imaginative story to life as Alice travels through the rabbit hole and encounters a world of mystical and zany characters.

The cast has been working hard since September to memorize their lines and learn choreography during their weekly rehearsals. The cast and crew can't wait to showcase their talents on the big stage.

The performances will be held Friday, May 2 and Saturday, 3. Tickets for the shows will be going on sale soon. You will not want to miss this amazing cast and crew.



## *STEM Brings Learning to Life!*



The students have been learning so much in STEM this year. They have completed activities centered on soil and water conservation and planted seeds to grow in the school's greenhouse and raised flower beds. They recently finished a unit on Robots, where they learned to code the robots through the apps they use. The PreK students coded the new Bee Bots by pressing the buttons to make the Bee Bots move in different directions, kindergarten through first grade learned to code Sphero Indicators using the colored tiles along with the app, second through fourth graders learned how to code Dash using the Blockly app, fifth through seventh grade were able to code Marty the Robot to make him move and groove, and our eighth graders coded our newest robots, Sphero Bolts.

We have also been utilizing our amazing VR Goggles in different classes. The second-grade classes traveled underwater to explore the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia through VR. Kindergarten classes will explore the weather cycle next week and the Pre-K will learn about the Rainforest and take a walk through the Amazon! Ms. Liz looks forward to using them with all of the grades in the school. These are such a unique and exciting tool which enriches learning at each grade level.

When students return from Spring Break, all classes will begin an engineering unit. Students will learn about force and motion and get to design, build and test out Marble Runs that they build! Ms. Liz can't wait to see what the students create!

## *Wildcat Book Day 2025*



Wildcat Book Day was on Monday, March 3 and kicked off this year's spirit week which tied into Read Across America Week! The students and many of the teachers enjoyed dressing as their favorite book characters and bringing their favorite books to school to share. The halls were filled with princesses, butterflies, astronauts, Dogman, superheroes, Pete the Cats, Dr. Seuss and many other characters. Other Spirit Days during Read Across America Week included pajama day, Green Eggs and Ham Day and Hats Off to Reading!



The students and team at McGinnis Woods School love to read and we love to encourage them to explore new worlds and adventures through books....Until next year, keep learning and reading books!



## *The First Grade Team Makes Each Day Special*



At McGinnis Woods, our first-grade teachers are passionate about making learning exciting, engaging, and full of joy! We believe in fostering a love for reading, sparking curiosity through hands-on experiences, and creating a classroom where every child feels encouraged to grow. From celebrating big achievements to sharing silly moments, we cherish every part of our journey with our first graders. Our team is dedicated, creative, and always ready with a smile (and maybe a few stickers!). Get to know the wonderful teachers who make first grade at McGinnis Woods such a special place!

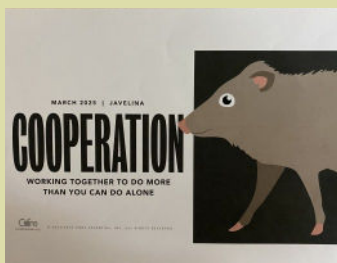
Ms. Lindsey Maxey and Ms. Julia Shatalova are the teachers for the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Fish. Ms. Lindsey is the lead teacher where she creates a dynamic and differentiated learning environment for all students. A proud graduate of Forsyth County schools, Ms. Lindsey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She has taught in both Forsyth and Gwinnett County Schools. Her son is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade at McGinnis Woods. With her deep understanding of diverse learning styles, her interactive approach is tailored to meet the unique needs of each student.

Ms. Julia is the 1st Grade Fish assistant teacher. She joined McGinnis Woods School six months ago and has enjoyed being a part of the team. Julia appreciates the warm and welcoming atmosphere at McGinnis Woods and loves helping children develop their skills and confidence. Seeing her students succeed brings her the greatest joy. Together, Ms. Lindsey and Ms. Julia bring creativity, warmth, and a love for learning to their 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom, making every day an exciting adventure for their students.

Ms. Kristen Hollister and Ms. Dee Godfrey are the teachers for the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Gnomes at McGinnis Woods School. Ms. Kristen is the lead teacher and holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication and a Certification in Elementary Education. This is her second year at McGinnis Woods, where she loves the welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of community. She enjoys making learning exciting through creative lessons, hands-on activities and plenty of laughter. The 1st grade Gnomes love coming to school each day to see what surprises and adventures are in store for them.

Ms. Dee is the assistant teacher in the Gnomes and has also been at McGinnis Woods for two years. She enjoys working in such a strong, family-like atmosphere where everyone supports one another. Ms. Dee has a Bachelor of Arts and shares her passion for creativity through her “Learn to Draw” after school club. She loves helping students express themselves and gain confidence in their abilities. Together Ms. Kristen and Ms. Dee create a warm, encouraging classroom where first graders really thrive.

## *Cooperation is the Word of the Month*



The word of the month for March is *Cooperation* and our definition is “working together to do more than you can do alone”. Each day during our morning broadcast we share a thought for the day centered on our word of the month and encourage the children to live out the word through their actions. Here is an example of one of the daily announcements about cooperation, “ Think about cooperation this way: in a relay race, each runner plays a crucial role. Alone, they might be fast, but together, they can win the race! That’s the power of teamwork I action”.

## *Ms. Trish and Ms. Katherine Support Learners*

McGinnis Woods 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.

This is Ms. Katherine's 4th year working with students in kindergarten through second grade. She provides supplemental literacy instruction and support to students struggling with reading, focusing on foundational skills like phonics and comprehension, works in small groups or individually, and collaborates with classroom teachers. This year she is also working with a group of high achieving kindergartners in Math.

Ms. Katherine enjoys partnering with classroom teachers to develop and implement effective literacy instruction and intervention strategies. She uses UFLI to strengthen essential reading skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary and is seeing dramatic results in her students' progress.

Ms. Trish has been working with students in the upper elementary and middle school (3rd-8th) for the past four years. She plays a crucial role in identifying and assisting struggling readers, providing targeted interventions and instruction. She works with students in various settings, including small groups, and classroom settings, and often focus on phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Ms. Trish also works with students on executive functioning skills, helping students plan, focus attention, switch gears, and juggle tasks.

## *Student Council and Jr. Beta Clubs Spread Kindness*



Student Council and Jr. Beta have been busy this new year. Student Council had a spirit week centered around kindness. Students got to dress up in western wear, pj's, sports attire, and red/shiny things. As a school we had a Kindness Poster Contest where each grade discussed what kindness looks like to them. Student Council Officers and Middle School Representatives were able to judge the posters and name three winners. PreK 5A, 1st Grade Gnomes, and in our middle school 8th Grade. We also prepped, prepared, and delivered over 900 Candygrams, fully attached with candy for our students to celebrate Valentines.

Junior Beta Club is in full swing! Students are volunteering in the school, in their neighborhoods and communities. In December, our students made holiday cards for our local USO in Hartsfield Airport.

Student Council members alongside our Jr. Beta Club have also been planning our next food drive for April where we will be collecting items for a local food program. Student Council and Jr. Beta Students will be cheering on our students during morning carpool as we get ready for STEM Family "Sports" Fun Night on March 20th.



## *Overnight Trips Will Cap Off the 2024-2025 School Year*



May is right around the corner which means that our 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are gearing up for their exciting overnight field trips! Through the years, the overnight trips have become legend around the school. Students and parents alike love the wonderful adventures that the trips afford and look forward to them each year. Here is a run down of the trips planned for this school year.

Our first graders will explore Zoo Atlanta in the dark and get a guided behind the scene experience which includes live animal encounters, visits to the feeding kitchens to see what the animals enjoy eating, and a walk through the zoo which features lots of growls, roars and nocturnal sounds.

The second graders will sleep in a cave while they visit Majestic Caverns located in Childersburg, Alabama. Participants will tour the cave and will enjoy lots of activities with their classmates before sleeping with the stalagmites and stalactites.

Third Grade will enjoy a night at the Tennessee Aquarium where they will enjoy a behind the scenes tour and experience river life at night.

Fourth grade will visit Nature's Classroom atop Lookout Mountain in Mentone, Alabama. The students and their teachers have an outdoors experience like no other while learning team work and survival skills. They will learn to build a fire, Kayak, and go hiking. This trip is an all-time favorite!

Fifth – Seventh Grade will visit Wahsega 4-H Center. The students will learn about mountain Ecology this year. They will also learn about pioneer life and cool skills such as archery. The students will also participate in teams building activities.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will head to Washington D.C. accompanied by Ms. Nicole. There they will participate in the Close-up D.C. program which includes visits to the Smithsonian museums and many monuments. This is something the students look forward to all year long and they will create lasting memories to last a lifetime.



## *McGinnis Woods 8th Grader Finishes 10th in GISA Spelling Bee*



On Tuesday, February 25th, Shviti Chilkamari, McGinnis Woods 8th grader, traveled to Mount de Sales Academy in Macon, Georgia to compete in round 2 of the Georgia Independent School Association Middle School Spelling Bee. This is the second time that Shviti has advanced this round during her years at McGinnis Woods.

In November, Leo Royston was our McGinnis Woods Spelling Bee winner and Shviti was the runner-up which advanced both Leo and Shviti to GISA's round 1 written Bee. Leading up to the GISA Finals, there were 101 students from 52 GISA Member Schools who competed in the Round 1 Bee which was Online and required that students write 100 words and provide definitions for words, too. The top 25% of that Bee then advanced to Round 2. Shviti was in the group that advanced. The top 15 competitors participated in the Final Oral round which was in front of a live audience at Mount de Sales Academy. After 11 rounds of oral spelling and vocabulary, a 6th grader from a local school was crowned champion. Shviti finished 10th which is quite an achievement!

We are very proud of Shviti and all of her hard work in preparing for the challenging competition. She represented our school so well!

## *Science Olympiad Competition was Exciting*



The McGinnis Woods Science Olympiad Team has been practicing all year long. The team has met weekly to learn about various STEM subjects (astronomy, math, marine life, biology, and much more) along with completing many different STEM activities. Some of the activities include building paper rockets, bridge building, gummy bear launchers, crime busters, and much more!

The team competed on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at Walton High School in Cobb County. Thirty schools participated in the competition at the fun yet challenging annual event

Although our team is young this year, they really enjoyed the competition and learned so much. The Barge Building Team scored in the top 10 for their challenge! Congratulations

to Ahati and Anishka on this accomplishment.

The members of the 2024-2025 Team are:

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

Fourth graders: Vardaan, Mayukha, and Angad.

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

Sixth grader: Ryan Skala

Science Olympiad Coaches:

Ms. Wendy (4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher) or Ms. Lauren (Middle School Science Teacher.)

These bright students made us proud as they exhibited their great teamwork, ingenuity and perseverance!



*Way to go Wildcats!*

## *STEM Family Fun Night is Almost Here*



Get ready for an exciting evening of fun at our STEM Family Fun Night on Thursday, March 20th, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM! This year's theme is sports, and there will be plenty of hands-on activities for the whole family to enjoy. Try your skills at basketball, skateboarding, curling, mini golf, football, soccer, and more, all while exploring the science, technology, engineering, and math behind your favorite sports.

Classrooms throughout the school will feature engaging STEM activities connected to the theme, making learning fun and interactive. There will also be sports activities on the playground led by Coach Ricky and Coach Ryan. The night will conclude in the gym at

7:00pm with the announcement of the winners from our school Science Fair.



## *McGinnis Woods Participates in the GISA Virtual Art Show*

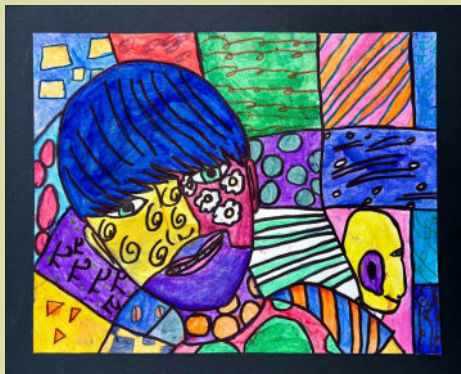


The Georgia Independent Schools Association puts on a virtual art show each year. This is a wonderful opportunity for member schools to showcase their talents in art. These artworks are judged by the talent, creativity and vision of each artwork in many unique categories. This year GISA received 317 entries. All 1st place finishers art pieces will advance to the SECIS (South Eastern Conference of Independent School) completion. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners will soon receive a ribbon in the mail.

We entered six of our amazing artists work into a variety of both 2D and 3D art categories. Our talented students are as follows: Jared Green in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Luke Espinel in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Ayaan Shaik in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Xiya Ding in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Ariel Kayakov in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and Shviti Chilkamari in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Ms. Tanya and the school was excited to learn that Ariel Kayakov won second place in her category for her ceramic work titled “Vibrantastico”.

*Congratulations to all of our fantastic artists!*



## *Final Discovery Club Session About to Start*



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> session of Discovery Clubs have come to a close and we can't wait for our final session of the year to start off on March 24<sup>th</sup>-April 6<sup>th</sup>.

During the 3rd term, the students enjoyed a wide range of clubs including Chess, Cooking, Slime, and Friendship Circle. They loved spending time with their friends and teachers that they don't get to see every day in their classrooms.

During our final Discovery Club sessions of the 2024-2025 school year, student will have opportunity to explore robotics, cooking, drawing, ceramics, end of the year scrapbooking, chess and more! Teacher led Discovery Clubs are very popular and are a fantastic way for students to learn about new topics.

## *Spotlight on Second Grade*



This is Ms. Joan's second year teaching at McGinnis Woods after moving from Nevada. She has her Master's in Elementary Education, Curriculum and Development from UNLV. She has been married for 23 years and has a son attending Virginia Tech, and a daughter at UGA. She loves to travel, and last summer visited Germany, Austria and Costa Rica. This summer she is looking forward to touring the UK. In her free time, she also enjoys reading, tennis, yoga and gardening. What she loves most about the McGinnis Woods family is the sense of community here, and watching her students grow.

This is Ms. Susan's sixth year with us at McGinnis Woods after moving from Birmingham, AL. Ms. Susan and Ms. Joan are a fantastic team, and this is their second year working together in second grade. Susan is an Auburn graduate with her Bachelor's degree in Public Relations. She has been married for 32 years and she and her husband are proud parents to a daughter, an Auburn graduate currently obtaining her master's degree. In her free time, Ms. Susan loves to go to the beach and travel with her family. She is excited to be working and supporting your child's development this year!

Ms. Isabelle is excited to be back teaching at McGinnis Woods for her third year. She taught 1st grade for two years and is now enjoying her first year teaching 2nd grade. Teaching has always been her passion! She graduated magna cum laude from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. Before that, she participated in an Early Childhood Education program for three years in high school, which deepened her love for working with kids. Isabelle is thrilled to have the opportunity to teach these wonderful students again. Outside of school, she's married to Ryan, and they share their home with two cats, Olive and Gumbo, and a dog named Biscuit.

Ms. Carolyn is so excited to be back at McGinnis Woods for her third year. Carolyn and Isabelle make a wonderful team, and worked together in first grade for two years, and now in second grade. She graduated from Kennesaw State University after majoring in Business Management with a minor in Marketing. She has been married for 34 years to her husband Rick and has two sons, both attending Kennesaw State University. Her oldest son, Bryce, is graduating in May with his engineering degree. Noah is majoring in Business Management. Ms. Carolyn loves working at McGinnis Woods with all the teachers and kiddos.

## *Middle Schoolers Weeks are Filled with Academics and Fun*



March has been full of fun in the middle school. The middle school students really enjoyed participating in Read Across America Week and the many different spirit days. Students dressed as their favorite book characters, and PJ clad students were ready to cozy up with a good book on PJ Day. They enjoyed wearing their favorite team jerseys and wore lots of Green for Green eggs and Ham Day. Overall, they loved having non-uniform days for a bit!

The Middle School Students also had some fun outside of school. The Middle Schoolers enjoy socials throughout each school year. Socials are a fun way for our students to hang out and socialize with everyone in the middle school outside of the regular classroom setting. We realize that every student needs to achieve social, emotional and academic balance, so we make it a priority to arrange activities to deepen their friendships outside of the school day.



This year socials have leveled up to some off campus events! The students traveled to Adventure Air Sports in Alpharetta, which was an amazing way to end the 3rd nine weeks of the year. Students bounced on trampolines, climbed the Ninja Course, and race down some massive slides. Students also played king of the mountain and several rounds of boys vs. girls dodgeball!

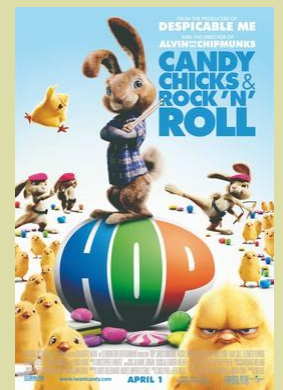


## *Have Your Child Join the Fun at Parents Night Out*



This Friday, March 21st, we will host Parent's Night Out for our PreK – 8th grade students from 5:30-10:00pm. We will have lots of St. Patrick's Day fun. For dinner we will serve green pasta and a fruit and vegetable. We are planning on enjoying the beautiful spring weather and participating in group games on the playground. The children will also create shamrock crafts, complete an estimating activity to guess how many fruit loops can fit inside a shamrock, and then, we will end the night with a movie and special snack.

Our next Parent's Night Out is scheduled for Friday, April 18th. Last year, our students had the time of their lives while searching for Easter eggs all throughout the school and classrooms. We plan on repeating this fun search. We will also have a special dinner, exciting activities and crafts, and we will end the night with a special snack while watching the movie Hop.



# Pictures from Around the School



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Lidan Zhou and Richard Green  
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The Mesi Family  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
The Ivanou Family  
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Sarah and Sarrinah Bijani  
Jasper Wu  
The King Family  
The Schwartzseid Family  
Anonymous  
The Hammonds Family  
Anonymous

## GREEN AND WHITE CIRCLE (CONTINUED)

The Herrell Family  
The Lipsitz Family  
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Gabby Greene  
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*Your gifts have made amazing things possible for our school!*