

MESSENGER



Great improvements to our school thanks to your support of Fun-Raiser



During the winter break, contractor Lee Monroe **renovated one of our downstairs bathrooms** to make it more accessible for our children. The two adult-height sinks were replaced by one taller sink and TWO lower sinks for our smallest toddlers, two and three year olds. These and additional improvements provide a restroom geared to the needs of our little ones. We are hearing teacher comments such as “life-changing” and “awesome” in response to this improvement!

Next up, new floors for our two upstairs classrooms - Mrs. Neff and Ms. Holoway’s PreK room and Ms. Debbi and Ms. Deb’s Three year old room. We have hired the multi-talented church sexton Victor Carballaso to lead this installation, but we need a number of volunteers to help us knock it out in one weekend. Check your calendars for any availability on MLK Jr. weekend and watch for an email with a Sign Up Genius this week. We do need some skilled volunteers, but we ALSO need volunteers to help us move furniture and supplies and then to move it all back and clean up for return of students on Tuesday. An hour, two hours or more Friday, Saturday, Sunday afternoon or Monday will be very welcome so we can complete the project quickly.

Christmas lights, corks and batteries, oh my!

Collection of Christmas lights will continue through mid-January. As you put those decorations away, be sure to recycle any that have stopped working. Also, bring in all those corks you popped on New Years’ Eve and any batteries that your children wore out during the holidays. Battery and cork collections are year-round.

- MPP Environmental Team

Winter Reminders

If it feels like 40 degrees or warmer, we do go out to the playground, so be sure to send children in warm clothes, coats, mittens, etc. for cold weather.

Reminders of School Policies:

- Review sick policies for when to keep your little ones home and for how long.
- Help us keep your children safe on playground by enforcing the same guidelines that they are asked to follow during school hours.
- Please drive slowly and with your full attention on driving in parking lot (no technology, please). ALSO keep your kids close when walking through the parking lot!
- Pick up times are 11:50-12noon and 12:50-1pm. Please respect that your teachers have other commitments right after they clean their rooms and prep for the next school day.

Contacting the Office

404-685-8758 calls & voice messages for MPP business

Call or text Director Melinda Sandkam’s cell

404-687-0683 for urgent communications

Remember, that releasing children to others needs to be submitted in writing (can be email to office and teacher, best to do both)

mpp@morningsidepc.org

school business and emails regarding children being sick or permission being given for someone else to pick up children

Office Hours

Mondays-Thursdays
8 am - 4:30 pm
Fridays 8 am - 2 pm

Chapel Donations

Thank you very much for the bags of legos, books, puzzles, fire engines, car carriers and more that you and your children donated to Gigi's Playhouse in December. They were amazed and so pleased!

The next Chapel is this Wednesday, January 13 when we will collect hand sanitizer and hand soap for Gigi's Playhouse. Please help the Playhouse combat the winter cold and flu symptoms with your donations. (In February, we will collect postage stamps.)

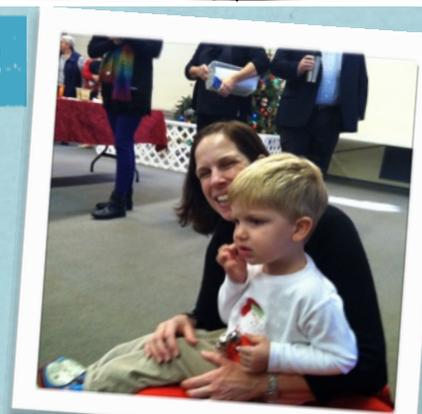
Before & After School

Enrichment programs begin

again this week: Ballet/tap (Mondays), music (Wednesdays) & yoga (Wed. mornings) have a few spots remaining. Playball, Art and Karate are full. See MPP website for links to register.

AROUND CAMPUS

Many thanks to alum parent Dawn Bell for leading Carols & Coffee and thanks to San Francisco Coffee for donation of coffee.



Seeking Volunteers in the New Year

If you have a few hours this month, we are seeking help in the following area: technology and purchase advice for Macs as we purchase and install new computer in library for teachers



We will welcome the trio Mary Flannery's Ghost on Wed., Jan. 20 for our Two, Three and PreK classes and again Thursday, Jan. 28 for our Toddlers and two-day Twos (in the more intimate setting of the Youth Center). Each concert will be age-appropriate and will be a fun introduction to the cello, flute

MUSIC AT MPP IN JANUARY

and guitar through favorite songs such as Skip to My Lou, Stand by Me, La Bamba, All You Need is Love, This Little Light of Mine, This Land is My Land. Their songs include participation and movement for the children. All three professional musicians are also parents and know the importance of music in a child's life.

New to MPP

Congratulations to the Presswala Family on the arrival of Honor Flynn on January 4. Her big brother Calvin is in the Older Toddlers.



PROSPECTIVE PARENT TOURS

When: Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 9:15 a.m. or of course individual tours can be scheduled too!

Who: Invite your friends and neighbors to RSVP to Melinda to attend a tour and learn more about our school

Christmas at MPP



Our House Gala

Calendar Reminders

First day of Enrichments	Mon. 1/11
Early Registration for Current Families	Mon. 1/11
In-Class Chapel for Toddlers & Twos	Tues. 1/12
Chapel for Threes & PreK (& in-class for Twos)	Wed 1/13
Ladies' Holiday Recovery Party 7:30pm	Thur. 1/14
Pink Barre class at studio on Virginia Ave. benefits MPP; register at www.pink-barre.com/vahi \$20 cash payment	9:30am Fri. 1/15
Maddio's Order Forms Due	Fri. 1/15
Flooring Installation	Fri. 1/15 - Mon. 1/18
School Closed MLK Jr. Holiday	Mon. 1/18
Maddio's Take & Bake Pick Up	Tues. 1/19
Priority Registration for Current Students for 2016-2017 School Year Ends	Fri. 1/22
MPP Fiesta 7pm at Nuckols	Sat. 1/30
Registration Opens for Community	Mon. 2/1

Support Our House, a preschool and home for children facing homelessness, by attending Gala on Saturday, Feb. 27 at Atlanta History Center. Many of our outreaches are for Our House and quite a few MPP parents are on the board and Gala committee.

Families on the Move

We are sad to say goodbye to the Decker family (Amelia in three-day Threes and John Henry in PreK) for the next six months as they move to Brazil until July. We also say goodbye to the Weickerts (Annika was in younger Toddlers).

We welcome Emmy Schreiber to the Toddlers and Santi Rios to the three-day Threes.

Leadership of Preschool Committee:

Though the rest of our preschool committee members complete and begin terms during the summer, we stagger the change of our Chair and Rising Chair/Secretary. Many, many thanks to Suzanne Macpherson for her strong leadership as Chair in 2015 (she remains on committee until June). Welcome and thanks to Ali Bradway as Chair and Becky Schreiber as Rising Chair/Secretary for 2016.

IN SCHOOL ENRICHMENT UPDATES

Science expanding to include both three year old classes. Team exploring Spanish options for Threes and PreK this month with hopes of having in place this winter.

“Fun” continues with Fun-Raiser

Thanks to all of you who purchased tickets to the **Ladies’ Holiday Recovery Party** this Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Hadfields’ home at 1305 Lanier Blvd. We are sold out! Many thanks to the hosts Kelli Hadfield, Suzanne Macpherson, Kelly Webb and Sarah Zampell.

There ARE still 6 tickets left for the **MPP Fiesta** which is catered by Nuevo Laredo and will be Saturday, January 30, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the Nuckols, 1745 Noble Dr. Thanks to all of you who have bought tickets and to the co-hosts Danielle and Christopher Artabasy, Anne and Will Barnette, Ali and Jon Bradway, Carrie and Brendan Branon, Hal and Kim Nuckols, Erica and Sarat Piduru, and Tish and Charles Woolley. Cash or check to MPP for \$60 can be given to Melinda to purchase a ticket.

Registration for 2016-2017

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year opens for current students, their siblings and church families this Monday, January 11. Be sure to turn in the application form and \$100 registration fee no later than Friday, January 22. Registration will then open for the community on Monday, Feb. 1.

The application is already on the website, will be sent home in children’s bags with a letter on Monday and Tuesday and also be sent as a link to an email this week.



If your New Years’ resolutions involved fitness, there are still **three items remaining from the silent auction**. Contact Melinda today with your “bid” to benefit both MPP and you!

1. BTB Fitness (locations in Poncey-Highlands & Buckhead) 1 month unlimited training \$55 (value \$365)

2. BTB Fitness 10 Class Pass to be used towards the ladies-only or Kettlebell conditioning class \$25 (value \$170)
3. Athletic Club Northeast - 30 day Platinum Family Membership+Blast! 2 adults and any dependents less than 18 yrs. all classes, equipment, locker room \$150 (value \$630)

STAFF UPDATES: MATERNITY LEAVE & MORE

Welcome to **Brittany Ely** and **Georgia Marshall** as PreK Teacher Jill Neff heads out on maternity leave for February and March. This team (Brittany on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; Georgia on Tuesdays and Thursdays) brings years of experience to partner with PreK assistant **Mary Hardy Holaway** who will be ably leading the class. Brittany Ely (mom to William Lowery in the 3-day threes) has an Early Childhood Education degree and years of

experience with three-year olds, kindergarten and third grade. Georgia Marshall, also known as Ms. Georgia who teaches science to our threes, and as GiGi to MPP students Charlie and Claire Strong, is a retired PreK teacher also with an Education degree. Meanwhile we are pleased to be supporting PreK assistant **Courtney Jerome** as she works towards completion of her Masters in Early Childhood Education this spring. While she fulfills her

student teaching practicum off-site through April, **Gillian Brady** will assist Ms. Deena. Gillian has been part of this teaching team since the beginning of the school year.

Erin Enright has taken on a fourth day as floater (Mondays-Thursdays) and we are pleased to have regular sub **Jen Torry** as our Friday floater. Jen is also sharing her fluency in Spanish with the children as she interacts with them throughout the day.