



January 2017

# MESSENGER

## Generosity of MPP

Many thanks for the 583+++ lbs. of food that was donated for the Food Pantry at Intown Collaborative Ministries by MPP families in November and December. They were overwhelmed by your generosity!



## 15th Anniversary Celebration Continues

As we continue to celebrate our 15th Anniversary, we will be planting a Kousa Dogwood tree (this is what grows next to playground) at Morningside Presbyterian this month in honor of our relationship between the preschool and the church property. All are invited to stay for a the tree planting at 9:15 on Wednesday, January 18. Thank you to the MPC landscaping volunteers for helping us choose a tree and Jack and Sarah Zampell for helping us secure one and transporting it.

Hope-Hill students are headed back to school in the new year and they need your help! January Chapel will include collection of new school supplies (e.g. cute notebooks, markers, scissors, etc.) to kick off the second half of their school year. Let's ring in the new year with new school supplies for these students. Collections will be on Tuesday 1/10 (Toddlers and 2-day Twos) and Wednesday 1/11 (3-day Twos, Threes and PreK).

## School Policy Reminders

- Review sick policies for when to keep your little ones home and for how long.
- Help us keep your children safe on the 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 devices, 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. (This goes for after-school enrichment programs too. The teachers and coaches often are heading straight to teach another course.)

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

[mpp@morningsidepc.org](mailto: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

# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



## Prospective Parent Tour

Spread the word. We've got a great thing here at MPP! Invite your friends and neighbors to a

Prospective Parent Tour

9:15 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 13

Have them RSVP to Melinda at

[mpp@morningsidepc.org](mailto:mpp@morningsidepc.org)

When you put away Christmas lights, if any are burned out or too tangled up to deal with, bring them to MPP to be recycled. Also accepting Styrofoam

for recycling. And, of course, recycling of corks and batteries continues!

## Calendar Reminders

<b>Tuition Due</b>	<b>1/1/2017</b>
<b>Teacher Workday</b>	<b>Tues. 1/3</b>
<b>Students Return</b>	<b>Wed. 1/4</b>
<b>Extended Day begins for Toddlers who have turned 2 years old</b>	<b>Thur. 1/5</b>
<b>First day of Enrichments</b>	<b>Mon. 1/9</b>
<b>Ms. Heather's Birthday</b>	<b>Mon. 1/9</b>
<b>In-Class Chapel for Toddlers &amp; Twos</b>	<b>Tues. 1/10</b>
<b>Chapel for Threes &amp; PreK</b>	<b>9:15 Wed. 1/11</b>
<b>In-Class Chapel 3-day Twos</b>	
<b>Prospective Parent Tour</b>	<b>9:15 Fri. 1/13</b>
<b>Ms. Deena's Birthday</b>	<b>Sun. 1/15</b>
<b>School Closed MLK Jr. Holiday</b>	<b>Mon. 1/16</b>
<b>Early Registration</b>	<b>Tues. 1/17-Fri. 1/27</b>
<b>15th Anniversary Tree Planting</b>	<b>Wed. Jan. 18</b>
<b>Lion Dance Performance</b>	<b>Wed. Jan. 25</b>
<b>Registration Opens to Community</b>	<b>Wed. 2/1</b>

## Early Registration

### Reminder

All current students and their siblings will be able to register between Tuesday, January 17 and Friday, January 27. You will receive the application form for 2017-18 school year in your child's bag before the MLK Jr. weekend and it will be on the website. Return with \$100 registration fee per child no later than Jan. 27. Registration will open to community Wed. February 1.

Many thanks from the MPP staff for the lovely teacher luncheon on Dec. 9 and the generous Christmas bonuses. We are grateful to have a community that supports educators and thank everyone for picking up children early on Dec. 9th so we could enjoy time together at Morningside Kitchen.



### 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. AND be sure that you have replaced your child's change of clothes with a set of cold weather clothing.



### Oh, Christmas Tree!



A huge thank you to Courtney Jerome and our church custodian Victor Carballosa for making our 12 foot Christmas tree a reality for the MPP community! Victor helped transport it, put it up and eventually took it down. Courtney took care of our lights and coordinating with the teachers for ornaments from all the classes decorated by the children. This fabulous centerpiece of our Christmas holidays was thanks to their hard work.

### Community Happenings

- We wish the Kim family all the best as they move to California next week. Alex and Cohen were in the 3-day Threes class, so that leaves us with two openings. (And there remains one Older Twos opening.) Please spread the word with your friends and neighbors.
- Support **Our House**, a preschool and home for children facing homelessness, by attending Gala on Saturday, Feb. 4 at Atlanta History Center. Many of our outreaches are for Our House and quite a few former and current MPP parents are on the board and Gala committee. Go to <http://ourhousega.org/save-date-house-annual-gala-feb-4th-2017/> to purchase tickets to Gala.

## Ladies' Wine Night

Fiesta tickets have sold out, but a few \$30 tickets remain for the Ladies' Wine Night at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 19. Many thanks to the hosts for both events and for all of you for purchasing tickets. Secure your Ladies' Wine Night ticket TODAY with a \$30 check to Melinda!

## SPECIALS THIS WINTER



The Chien Hong School of Kung Fu Lion Dance troupe returns on Wed. Jan. 25 to bring us lots of luck for the upcoming year of the rooster!

\* Musical Trio returns to sing fun songs with our Toddlers and 2-day Twos on Thur. Feb. 2.



## 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 Ali Bradway for her strong leadership as Chair in 2016 (she remains on committee until June). Welcome and thanks to Becky Schreiber as Chair and Kelly Cobb as Rising Chair/Secretary for 2017.

## CHRISTMAS THROUGH SONG



Christmas Carols led by alumni parent Dawn Bell and Christmas Music led by the trio Mary Flannery's Ghost (for toddlers and 2-day Twos families) were a huge hit with all this year. Thanks to everyone for sharing the spirit of the season!



# Strategic Plan 2016-2019

Full Plan available  
on MPP website

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## HIGHLIGHTS

1. Research is already underway for Enhancing Communication methods between parents & teachers, the director & parents, the director & teachers, and also Enhancement to the MPP Website including potential online payments.
2. Many of the items for Supporting MPP Staff were accomplished in the last 6 months, but we will also continue annually in regards to review of competitive salaries & benefits. Support for staff through permanent role of floater has been fully implemented. Providing the best continuing education opportunities will include sending all staff to national conference for NAEYC held here in Atlanta next fall.
3. Areas of focus this year will be Curriculum, Enrichment & Diversity to include continued review of each age's goals and objectives and communication regarding them. Review of in-school enrichment opportunities and also

continuing evaluation of before and after school enrichments will be taking place. Introducing diversity to our children is a priority and will be expanded through more special programming and expanded materials in our classrooms. (We are excited to be partnering with Little Shop of Stories for our upcoming Book Fair to bring greater variety of cultures and peoples to our library.)

4. With many recent improvements to our property, we will start with research for building and playground improvements that will take place further along in 3-year plan. The Facilities and Operations category also includes continued coordination of our many generous volunteers.
5. Enriching our MPP Community & Neighborhood Outreach includes working on our relationships with non-profit organizations, growing opportunities for our families to connect, and maintaining a strong connection with the church community.

### 1. Enhancing Communication & Technology

### 2. Supporting MPP Staff

### 3. Review of Curriculum, Enrichment and Diversity Programs

### 4. Improvement of Facilities & Operations

### 5. Enriching our MPP Community & Neighborhood Outreach

#### FROM THE DIRECTOR

I have never known an organization as committed to continual strategic plans as Morningside Presbyterian Preschool. In my former role as Program Director of the church and now as Preschool Director for two years, I have been a part of the last three strategic plans. I am so impressed with the commitment to gaining input from ALL, then the dedication of the Preschool Committee in developing that input into a plan and then the execution of the plan over three years! I've never known an organization with as much follow-through in completing all items on a plan and then moving right on to developing the next plan! Thank YOU for your vision and dedication to bringing the best to our students.

Sincerely,

Melinda Sandkam

## Inquiring Minds want to know about how your Fun- Raiser donations are spent

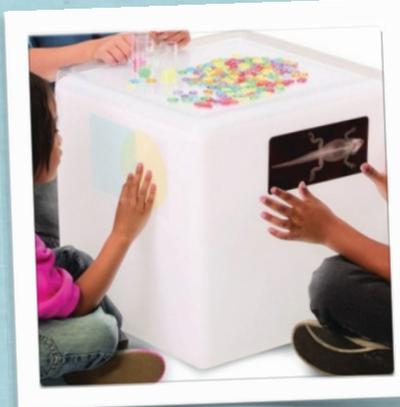
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As you will find at any educational institution, tuition alone does not cover the costs at MPP - so fundraising is an important part of our budget. The Annual Fund encompasses all monies raised which support the budget that the Preschool work with annually. Your Fun-Raiser, Dine Outs, Book Fair and Spring Fling support goes to these important items that we plan carefully for in the budget - supporting our teachers with competitive salaries, benefits and bonuses, and the furniture, equipment, materials that they need in the class rooms to provide the best early childhood

education experience for your children. Being able to count on fundraising dollars as part of our annual budget allows for new books, performers such as Mr. Greg's Musical Madness, Queen Glitter, the musical trio that came in December for the

little ones and the Lion Dance coming at the end of January. The budget of course, also supports infrastructure costs, such as cleaning, building use, maintenance, technology, marketing and playground needs.

## NEW PURCHASES



*New kitchen set for Younger Toddler/Twos room (Ms. Betsy & Ms. Sabine's and Ms. Julie & Ms. Liz's room.)*

\* New light cubes for both Toddler/Twos rooms.



## HOW FUND-A PROJECT TOUCHES LIVES AT MPP

The trio that came to sing this morning was excellent. When I picked Madelyn up from school, the first thing she said was "sing songs". She talked the whole way home about singing songs and the "jello" (read: cello). She remembered that the guy played the guitar. Later in the afternoon she wanted to sing the songs again, and we talked more about the instruments the musicians played. We even had a jam session of our own with some shakers and bongos! Madelyn talked about some of the other children and what they were doing during the songs ("dancing", "being silly"). It was amazing! It was as though she had recorded the entire music session and was playing it back to me! She was observing and absorbing every single minute. It has warmed my heart more than you know.

— Lindsay Boorman, Toddler Mom

In the course of my teaching career I have had the profound pleasure of meeting the late Mr. Rogers of PBS, Bob McGrath of Sesame Street and the distinguished Dr. Alice Honig. These people are all leaders in our field and were all presenters at the NAEYC conferences that I have attended. The NAEYC conference is the most highly regarded conference for preschool teachers, where thousands of passionate and dedicated teachers from all over the country gather to learn, re-energize and share ideas. Each year a city is chosen to host the NAEYC conference and this year it's Atlanta! It's always an incredible experience to attend the NAEYC conference and come together with other professionals who absolutely LOVE what they do - teaching young minds, helping mold them into good citizens, and instilling a great love for learning.

— Jill Neff, PreK Teacher