

March 2016

MESSENGER



Strategic Plans Begin with Focus Groups

Having completed the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, the Morningside Presbyterian Preschool Committee has begun the process of creating our next three-year Strategic Plan. As we develop the goals and priorities for the coming years, we welcome the input of our families, teachers and all in our larger community, including the church. Please join us for one of three Focus Group sessions to be held on: Monday, March 14 at 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, March 17 at 9 a.m. in the Youth Room (107). We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas! For more information, please contact Ali Bradway, Preschool Committee Chair, abradway@invesco.com. RSVP to Preschool Director Melinda Sandkam, mpp@morning sidepc.org.



Continuing Education for our Teachers

We want to once again share our thanks for the support of our families in offering continuing education opportunities to our teachers. By closing the school on Feb. 26, teachers were able to attend the Georgia Preschool Association Conference. Some of the many classes that we enjoyed included Making a Musical Day for Munchkins, Red Light, Green Light of Development, Kids Just Wanna Have Fun, Alphabet Senses: Using the Five Senses to Learn the ABCs. This wealth of information gives us exciting ideas to bring back to our classes and strengthen our knowledge of early childhood education.

Registration for Next Year

We are pleased to report that we filled the school for next school year on the first day of registration. We continue to give tours and take names for wait lists. Be sure to turn in your signed Enrollment Agreement with one month's deposit by Friday, March 15.



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 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 for donating 386 postage stamps to Gigi's Playhouse in February!!! This will be a huge help to them. The next Chapel is March 9, when we will be collecting Goldfish and similar snacks, like Annie's Bunnies.

DINE-OUT, HAIR CUTS & BOOT CAMP

Many thanks to La Tavola for welcoming the MPP community for Dine Out which netted a \$139.75 donation. Thanks also to Kids Salon for their support through the School Days week. Next up, Alison Giannavola (MPP mom & owner of Atlanta Kick) will be hosting a boot camp style class at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on Monday, March 28. This class is appropriate for all fitness levels - from couch potatoes to marathoners. The \$20 fee will go right back to MPP, so come burn some calories and do good for MPP at the same time!! Bring a friend and spread the word!

AROUND CAMPUS:

Pajamas, Pizza & Popcorn, Pink, Purple...



LION DANCE, MOTHER GOOSE, MUSICAL TRIO

In February, we welcomed the Chien Hong School of Kung Fu Lion Dance troupe which was



fabulous fun! The lion brings us lots of luck for the new year of the monkey!

Mother Goose will join us in March on Wed. the 23rd. The trio Mary Flannery's Ghost was such a hit for our toddlers and 2-day Twos that we have invited



them back on Tuesday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m.





MPP is proud to collect coins for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Feb. 24 - Mar. 22

MPP has raised over \$8,200 since 2008! Coin banks have been distributed and our kids have started collecting. If you still need a coin bank, please email Kim Nuckols kimberly@nuckols.com and she will get you one. Use the next month to encourage your child to add coins to the bank. Maybe they will share some of their allowance, ask parents or family members to contribute, sell some toys to friends in the neighborhood, or set up a lemonade stand! Remember, in addition to coins we will gladly accept bills and checks for Children's Healthcare as well! Coin banks will be collected on March 21 & 22. The money raised will help fund kid-oriented initiatives at Children's including the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit. Delivering giggles and grins to patients and their families, these clowns take "kidding around" to a whole new level - a much needed distraction that takes patients' minds off being in the hospital.



Calendar Reminders	
In-Class Chapel for Toddlers & Twos	Tues. 3/8
Mary Flannery's Ghost Musical Trio	Tues. 3/8
Chapel for Threes&PreK (& in-class for Twos)	Wed. 3/9
Strategic Plan Focus Group	Mon. am 3/14
Deposit for 2016-17 Due	Tues. 3/15
Strategic Plan Focus Group	Wed. pm 3/16
Strategic Plan Focus Group	Thur. am 3/17
Early Regis. Deadline for Summer Camp	Fri. 3/18
Mother Goose	Wed. 3/23
School Closed for Good Friday	Fri. 3/25



All Are Invited to Holy Week at Morningside Presbyterian Church

The doors of Morningside Presbyterian Church are always open to all. If you are seeking a place to worship for any of the Holy Week services, please join us.

And, if you are looking for a great Easter Egg Hunt, don't miss out on



Saturday, March 26 at 11 a.m.
 Palm Sunday worship, Sunday, March 20, 11 a.m., Maundy Thursday worship March 24, 7 p.m., Good Friday worship March 25, 7:30 p.m., Easter Egg Hunt March 26 and Easter Worship 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, March 27.



Spring Fling Saturday, April 23

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Returning to our origins, the formerly known Jungle Jam is once again 'Spring Fling'. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. We will have bounce houses, a petting zoo, a train, face painting, King of POPS, and so many more exciting activities for kids of all ages, including a separate toddler area for younger children. Invite your friends and neighbors! All are welcome.

Co-chairs Sarah Zampell and Kelli Hadfield need your support to make it a

success! If you are willing to be a part of the team that makes our Spring fundraiser happen, join us for a meeting on Wednesday, March 2 at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Center (Room 107). All families are asked to sign up for a volunteer shift the day of: set up 8:30-10, volunteering during event 10-11:30 or 11:30-1 p.m. or clean up 1-2:30 p.m. You are a key part to making the day happen. As with all our fundraisers, the Spring Fling supports the annual budget of the preschool - bringing exciting new materials to our class rooms, replacing items well used and supporting our teachers through continuing education and teacher appreciation.

We will be sending home information on sponsorship opportunities and raffle ticket sales in the next few weeks, so please stay tuned!

Summer Camp Weeks Filling Quickly - Don't Miss Out Weeks 2, 3 & 4 of (completed) Toddlers camp have gone to wait list. However, be sure to add your child's name to wait list if you are interested in these weeks as we can consider adding a second class if there is the demand (we already have five on each week's wait list). Do not include deposit for weeks that are on wait list until we confirm availability (early regis. cost will be honored if received by Mar. 18). Certain weeks of (completed) Twos, Threes and PreK camps are also close to filling. Register TODAY!

STYROFOAM & PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION AT MPP

Did you know that you should not be putting Styrofoam or plastic grocery bags in your City of Atlanta recycling bin? City of Atlanta does not accept these items, so try your best to keep them out of your home recycling.

During the month of March, we will make it easier for you to recycle by collecting your Styrofoam and plastic grocery bags (must be clean and dry) in a clearly labeled blue bin at the entrance of MMP.

The environmental committee will bring the plastic bags to Kroger or Publix and the Styrofoam to Keep Atlanta Beautiful (www.KeepAtlantaBeautiful.org). Keep Atlanta Beautiful has community recycling events the first & second Saturday of each month for a wide range of items that cannot be recycled at home.

Keep up the good work with bringing in batteries to be recycled - we brought another box of batteries to be shipped off for recycling. 43 POUNDS of batteries kept out of the landfill. Since starting collecting batteries MMP has recycled approximately 130 pounds of batteries.

- Thank you from the Environmental Committee and Mother Earth!