



November 2015

# MESSENGER

## MPP Outreach Team Chooses GiGi's Playhouse for Chapel donations\*

*"To know them is to love them. Teach them and they will learn, embrace them and they will change your life for the better."*

### Monthly Chapel

Monthly Chapel with MPC's Director of Children's Ministries, Sarah Kate DeWynngaert, will begin in November. With the Threes and PreK classes Sarah Kate will be talking about the monthly outreach donations, as well as introducing them to different aspects of worship and the sanctuary. With the Toddlers and Twos, Sarah Kate will spend time in their classrooms teaching songs and stories from the Bible. This will be a time for Christian Education, but also for the children and Sarah Kate to get to know each other.

My son Theo was born with T21 and when he was five months old, I reluctantly took him to a music class at a place I had heard of called GiGi's Playhouse. It was the best thing I ever *didn't* want to do.

GiGi's Playhouse is a Down Syndrome Achievement Center that was founded thirteen years ago by a tenacious mother in Chicago. Her little girl was born with T21, also known as Down Syndrome. In her mind, it needed to be a special place. Somewhere that other children with T21 and their parents could gather. A place to learn, play, socialize, and receive free therapies. A place where they could feel safe and loved, in a world that they were simply trying to understand how to fit into.

Over the years, GiGi's Playhouse has unquietly and beautifully redefined the face of Down Syndrome for everyone. There are now twenty-six playhouses around the country and even one in Mexico! Seven more playhouses are breaking ground this year; Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Diego, and more. Atlanta opened their doors on Amsterdam Drive just over four years ago. It has undeniably proven that through early intervention the quality of one's daily life with Down Syndrome can be changed for the better. Here is the best part - everything is FREE at GiGi's, even the parking. There are tons of therapies disguised as play everyday. We don't turn anyone away.

As Theo's mother, an executive board member and the former Education Director at GiGi's Playhouse in Atlanta, please accept my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the MPP outreach committee and the MPP community for always opening their hearts and believing in important causes such as GiGi's Playhouse Atlanta. - Jill Neff

Our Outreach Committee has chosen to support one organization this year through our \*Chapel donations -- GiGi's Playhouse. Once a month, the Threes and Pre-K classes go to the sanctuary to hear stories from Sarah Kate and she visits the Toddlers and Twos in their classrooms. Starting this month, on November 2, we will be collecting donations at chapel time. This month we are donating PAPER TOWELS to GiGi's Playhouse. This is a great opportunity to allow your child to pick out the donation while you are out and about!

(The next Chapel will be on December 7 when we will be collecting LIGHTLY USED TOYS AND BOOKS for GiGi's Playhouse. Please encourage your child to give away a toy or book to other children during the Christmas season.)

## Prospective Parent Tours

Spread the word. We've got  
a great thing here at MPP!

Invite your friends and  
neighbors to a Prospective

Parent Tour 9:15:

Monday, Nov. 16

Thursday, Dec. 10

Friday, Jan. 8

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Have them RSVP to Melinda  
at [mpp@morningsidepc.org](mailto:mpp@morningsidepc.org)

## New to MPP

**Congratulations to  
the Fricke Family  
on the arrival of  
Lauren on Friday,  
October 9. Big  
Brother Thomas is  
in the Two-Day  
Twos.**

## HALLOWEEN PARADE



## INTERACTIVE LITERACY AND MUSIC

MPP welcomes guest performer  
Jennifer Daniels Wed., Nov. 18, 9:30.

Working closely with Eric Litwin  
(author of the first four Pete the Cat  
picture books), Jennifer engages  
children with lively shows designed to  
get them excited about reading, the  
arts and creative self expression. With  
guitar in hand, Jennifer will have the  
kids dancing, laughing, growing and  
singing their own stories.



## RE-USE

Help us collect 100 empty paper towel rolls by Nov. 6 to be used for a craft at an event to support Kate's Club which is a wonderful organization that offers programming for children that are grieving due to the death of a parent or sibling.



## Many Thank Yous

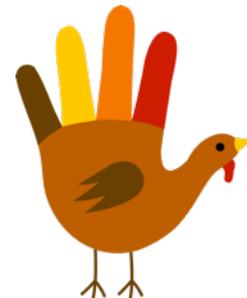
We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Denise Varnadoe for great pictures, Katy Stout for generous speech and language screening, our teacher appreciation team for their yummy treats, our Open house volunteers, our amazing Fun-Raiser committee that is working so hard. And, finally **a big thank you and fond farewell to our Spanish teacher Belkis Sykes as she moves to Panama in the new year. She will finish with us on Nov. 16.**

### Calendar Reminders

Thanksgiving Gathering	Mon. 11/2 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Annual Food Drive	Kicks Off 11/ 2
Chapel with Sarah Kate	Mon. & Tues. 11/ 2 & 3
Announced Fire Drill	Wed. 11/ 4
Fire Engine Visit	Wed. 11/ 4
Deadline to Sign up for Pageant	Wed. 11/ 4
100 Paper Towel Tubes Needed	Fri. 11/6
Maddio's Order Forms Due	Fri. 11/13
Fun-Raiser at Paris on Ponce	Fri. 11/13
Prospective Parent Tour	Mon. 11/16
Ms. Belkis's Last Day	Mon. 11/16
Maddio's Take & Bake Pick Up	Tues. 11/17
Ms. Courtney's Birthday	Tues. 11/17
No School for Thanksgiving	Mon.-Fri. 11/23-27

### Order School Pictures Today

Please let Denise [denise@varnadoe.net](mailto:denise@varnadoe.net) know if you did not receive an email with the password to view your school photos online. Please place orders by 11/13 to get prints before Thanksgiving Break or 12/12 to get them before Christmas. Payments for Denise may go in envelope on Melinda's office door.



**Safe travels during Thanksgiving week. May your time with family and friends be joyous! As we enjoy plenty, please support our food drive for the Food Pantry at Intown Collaborative Ministries.** Current needs: spaghetti, Mac 'n cheese, peanut butter & jelly, tuna, Spam, Vienna Sausage, soups & stews, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, chili, cereal, cereal bar snacks, crackers, tea & coffee.



# Countdown to the Nov. 13 Fun-Raiser: babysitter booked? sponsorship done? tickets purchased? ready, set, bid!

The annual silent and live auction is an important part of MPP's budget and helps cover operational costs that tuition alone doesn't meet. Your participation is an integral part of making this event a success. Our fundraising goal for this year's event is \$20,000!

The hard-working Fun-Raiser Team is pleased to report that a fabulous venue is awaiting us with delicious food, beverages, valet parking and lots and lots of great items to bid on. Tickets are \$70 and available to purchase each day at school and on-line too.

Go to [www.biddingforgood/mpp?](http://www.biddingforgood/mpp?) to buy tickets, review auction items and start bidding today! Share it with friends, grandparents and more. To show our appreciation to our teachers, we offer them all complimentary tickets. Your additional sponsorship pledge can cover the cost of a teacher attending and also helps build a great start to our evening of bidding. Become a sponsor today!

Be sure to thank our local vendors for all their contributions. Here is a current list of items available:

- One week at St. Simon's, 3 night stay Lake Burton, 3 night stay Lake Sinclair (generous donations from families)
- 310 Rosemont, All Fired Up, Ansley Animal Clinic, Atkins Park, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta Kick, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Barcelona, Big Thinkers Science, Bla Bla Kids, Brittany Knapik Photography, BTB Fitness, Casseroles, Catch Air, Chastain Tickets, CorePower Yoga, Creative Movement and Dance, Dave's Cosmic Subs, Doc Chey's, Doterra, Douglas & Co., Eclipse di Luna, Elevate Your Workout, Fabrik, Farm to Ladle, Fresh to Order, Frozen Fenn Sisters, Garnish & Gather, George's, Half Moon Outfitters, High Museum, Highland Fine Wine, Highland Pet Supply, Highland Runners, Highland Yoga, Hippo Hopp, Intown Animal Hospital, Island Flowers, Johnny's Pizza, Kaleidoscope

Bistro, Kevin Rathbun Steak, Kimberly Mack Beauty Studio, La Tavola, Lizard Thicket, Maggie Fine Art, Marlow's Tavern, Metal Smithing with Catherine Gordon, Moe's & Joe's, Orange Theory, PH Wine Merchant, Pie Shop, Pierce Yoga, Pink Barre, Playball, ProCleaners, Pure Barre, Restaurant Eugene, Rise 'n Shine, Savory Spice Shop, Sensations Therafun, Six Feet Under, Sole Shoes, Sorelle, Speech Source, Taqueria del Sol, Taverna Plaka, The General Muir, The Nook, Tiny Towne, Two Urban Licks, Urban Body, Urban Cottage, Vann Jernigan Florist, VIHI Tour of Homes, Vivid Salon, Yeah Burger, Young Chef's Academy

- Teacher Events include outing to Botanical Gardens, Popcorn & Movies, Valentines' Day Tea Party, Yoga; Classroom Art Projects; Classroom Baskets including a wine basket, a fire pit filled with goodies, an assortment of gift cards and so much more!

**Seeking some technology volunteers: update website, social media updates, technology advice for Mac. AND volunteers that can haul 50 lb. bags of sand every 6 weeks or so. Contact Melinda at [mpp@morningsidepc.org](mailto:mpp@morningsidepc.org)**

**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