



MPP Messenger

October 2012

Mark Your Calendar!

October 1 – Extended Day begins for 2's
October 2 – Dine Out at El Taco
October 3 – International Walk to School Day
October 3 – Chapel
October 1 – 5 – Individual photos
October 6 – Ms. Karen's birthday
October 8 & 9 – Columbus Day and teacher workday, **NO SCHOOL**
October 10 – Young Audiences performance
October 13 – Jungle Jam
October 25 – Open House
October 29 – Ms. Denise's birthday
October 31 – Halloween Parade

Looking Ahead

November 5-9 – Book Fair
November 6 – Closed for Election Day



From the Director

Happy Fall! We have finally broken the worst of the heat and enjoying more outdoor time as a result. The children have gotten into the groove and there are happy smiles in place of the tears of September. Way to go!

October always brings loads of opportunities for service and we have highlighted many of them in this newsletter. One of our goals here at MPP is to encourage children to have concern for their families, friends and the world around them. Please take the time to include your children in picking out donations and explain why it's good to walk and bike to school. We have always been so blessed by the generosity of our families here at MPP. I believe that is a big part of what makes our community special.

Giving time is another specialty of our parents and teachers! I'd like to thank the room parents from this year for giving their time to coordinate and promote activities, plan parties and serve as touch points for other parents.

Kelli Hadfield (young toddlers), **Suzanne Macpherson** (older toddlers), Sam Godwin (2 day twos), **Sloan Tito and Andrea Zern** (young twos), **Molly Scott** (older twos), **Jordan Chadwell and Nicole Wiseman** (3 day threes), **Bernadette Porter** (5 day threes), **Shannon Higgins** (Ms. Deena and Ms. Chris' PreK), and **Mary Hardy Holaway** (Mrs. Neff and Ms. James PreK).

As you can see from the calendar, there are also many events this month and we hope you can attend all of them. From our first Dine Out of the year at El Taco to our cute Halloween Parade, you will not be disappointed – they are great times for building relationships with one another. Yet another specialty of MPP!!

Cheers,
Sarah Tomaka, Director

Jungle Jam



Bake Sale

Ms. Neff's fabulous Bake Sale will again be held at this year's Jungle Jam. Signup sheets have been posted outside each classroom so please sign up to bring goodies to be sold during Jungle Jam.



Items that are big sellers include whole cakes and pies as well as fun cupcakes and cookies. You do not need to price items. If the item contains nuts, please label it prior to giving it to Ms. Neff. Bring your items to school on **Friday, October 12th** and deliver it to Ms. Neff's classroom by 1:00 p.m. The more creative the item, the better!

Volunteer sign-up

Each family should sign up to volunteer for one time slot. A SignupGenius email was sent out this week.

Prize Drawing Tickets

Your child should have received an envelope and a letter last week. Please sell all tickets and return your check and tickets to Sarah no later than **October 10th**. If you need more tickets, just ask Sarah, Sandra Adams, Emily Carlson or Jenn Packer. We'll be happy to provide you with extras!

Items needed

We will need several large coolers to put drinks, ice and food in. If you have one we can borrow, please email Jenn Packer at jennpacker@gmail.com. We will need 2 gas grills to grill burgers and hot dogs. If you have one we can use, please email Jenn Packer at jennpacker@gmail.com. We ask that you deliver it by 9:00 am and pick it up by 1:30 pm. We will have volunteers to help you unload and load it into your vehicle.

Prize Drawing Items

We will be asking each class to compile a basket for this year's prize drawing. Your donations are optional. We will be coordinating the collection of these items through your room parents so be on the lookout for an email from them with more details.

Your co-chairs, *Sandra Adams, Emily Carlson and Jenn Packer*

Congratulations to . . .

Jo and Mark Birch, big brother Luke and big sister Livi on the birth of Jake on September 20.



Upcoming . . .

CHEESE!



Individual Photos

This year our own Ms. Denise will be taking your child's individual photos. Remember to let us know if you would like siblings to have the opportunity to have their picture taken together as well as individually. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, October 1

Ms. Andie and Ms. Denise's Younger 2s, Ms. Kim and Ms. Kay's Older 2s, Ms. Amy and Ms. Kim's 3-day 3s. *Parent helpers are Georgia Moore and Sloan Tito*

Tuesday, October 2

Mrs. Neff and Mrs. James' PreK and Ms. Debbi and Ms. Karen's 5-day 3s. *Parent helpers are Melissa Etheridge and Sandra Adams.* Ms. Kim and Ms. Kay's Younger Toddlers. *Parent helpers are Betty Feng and Sarah Daley*

Thursday, October 4

Ms. Deena and Ms. Chris' PreK, Ms. Kim and Ms. Amy's 2-day 2s and Ms. Andie and Ms. Julie Ann's Older Toddlers. *Parent helper is Shannon Higgins*

Parent-Teacher Conferences in October

MPP supports parent-teacher communication in a number of ways, including conferences in both fall and spring. The fall conferences will be held in the month of October and are meant to be a report on how your child is adjusting to the new routine of the year and to give you an idea of what to expect for the coming year. This is a great way to get to know your child's teachers better. The teachers will be in touch to schedule a conference soon. Please make every effort to talk with them so they can keep you up to date on how the year's going.



Chapel Toiletry Donations

Our Outreach Committee is working hard to support many area organizations including Journey, a men's night shelter at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. Once a month, the threes and PreK go to chapel to hear stories from Reverend Mullis, sing songs and hear about ways to help one another. Starting this Wednesday, October 3, we will be collecting small toiletries at chapel time. This month we are donating toothbrushes and toothpaste. This is a great opportunity to allow your child to pick out the donation while you're out and about! There will be a basket for donations in front of the sanctuary so anyone can participate. Also, remember that parents are always welcome to attend chapel. It is at 9:15 a.m., usually the second Wednesday, but note that this month it is the first Wednesday.



It's International Walk to School Day! – Wednesday October 3rd

Did you know that October is International Walk to School Month? On Wednesday, October 3rd children both locally and around the globe will be walking and biking to school for International Walk to School Day!

Join the celebration and informally “parade” to school together! This is a fun way to teach your children about the benefits of walking for health, walkable communities, and being kind to the environment. Environmental Committee members will be greeting kids and parents walking/biking/strolling to MPP with stickers and organic apples as a treat.

Contact Kris Smith at kcsmith@mindspring.com if you have any questions, and check out www.iwalktoschool.org for more information.

Mitten Tree Benefits Our House

October brings cooler weather and our annual collection of new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for the children at Our House. Gently used or new coats and sweaters may also be donated. Our House is a childcare and support center located in Decatur that serves children and families facing homelessness. MPP's partnership with Our House spans the year with opportunities for our children to donate clothing, books and diapers to help other children. This is a wonderful way to teach your kids about the spirit of giving. As you shop for your child's mittens, hats and scarves this year, let them choose some for those that don't have any and hang them on the Mitten Tree themselves. The Mitten Tree will blossom outside the parlor from October 1st until Friday, October 26th. If you have any questions, please contact Outreach Committee co-chairs, **Alyssa Durden or Susan Kimball**. For more information about Our House visit www.ourhousega.org.



Halloween Costume Collection

Do you have outgrown costumes cluttering your closets from years past? This year we are also collecting gently used costumes for the children of Our House so that they can take part in the childhood tradition of dressing up for Halloween. Look for the pumpkin poster to select a child that you can provide a costume for, and then return the pumpkin pinned to the costume beneath the Mitten Tree by Monday, October 22nd. Contact Anne Barnette if you have any questions. (annebarnette@me.com)



Halloween Parade - Wednesday, October 31

Our little goblins will once again show off their Halloween finery on Wednesday, October 31 shortly after drop off in the morning. I would encourage parents to either gather at the Welcome Center end of the building where the sandy-colored stone walkway is or at the Preschool end of the building to take pictures of the parade. Following the Parade, the threes and fours will go trick-or-treating at a few designated places. This is always so cute – be sure to bring your camera.

Come Support MPP at El Taco!

DATE: Tuesday, October 2, 2012

TIME: 5pm-10pm

PLACE: El Taco Restaurant
1186 N. Highland Avenue
Tel – 404.873.4656



THE SCOOP: We need at least 40 diners to receive 20% of the entire restaurants sales (including alcohol) for the evening! If we have less than 40, we will only receive 20% of our supporter's sales.

So bring the whole family and invite your friends and neighbors too!! We need at least 40 supporters to make this a success!

*Please Note - remember to mention to the hostess that you are with MPP. Reservations are accepted for parties of 7 or more. For groups under 7 you may call ahead to reduce wait time.

We hope to see you there!