



MPP Messenger

September 2012

Mark Your Calendar!

September 1 – Ms. Chris's birthday

September 3 – Labor Day, **NO SCHOOL**

September 4 – Playball starts

September 7 – Yoga starts

September 10 – Ballet starts

September 11 – MusiCanopy starts

September 12 – Chapel

September 14 – Creative Movement starts

September 14 – Spanish starts

September 17 – Science starts

September 19 – Ms. Debbi's birthday

September 19 – Project 20/20 vision screening

September 21 – Early release – 12 noon

September 26 – Speech & Language screening

Looking Ahead

October 1 – Extended Day begins for 2's

October 3 – International Walk to School Day

October 1 – 5 – Individual photos

October 8 & 9 – Columbus Day and teacher workday, **NO SCHOOL**

October 13 – Jungle Jam

And more!! Look for October's Messenger for all the details!

From the Director

“Back to School” has always held deep meaning in my life. For one thing it meant a sure trip to the department store with my mother to pick out new clothes for the year. Shopping for school supplies was a big favorite for me. But also, it meant reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, meeting new teachers and gaining new skills and knowledge. I was blessed to grow up in a home where education was one of the most important parts of our lives – a mom who taught for years before starting a family, a dad who was a college professor and a brother who has gone on to university administration and teaching. It's just a natural part of our lives.

My hope for you as parents is that your children will become life-long learners through their start here at MPP. They will develop a love for learning and it will become an integral part of their lives. At MPP, we provide the building blocks for the foundation of learning, along with life skills such as eating independently, traversing stairs, and that all-important concept of sharing. While it may seem improbable to those of you with toddlers – they **WILL** be able to go to their rooms independently and with pride by the time they reach 3 or 4 years old! Your role in all this is many faceted – reading every day, talking to them about what they did in school, reinforcing letter and number knowledge by playing games at home and by becoming partners with your child's teachers. The teachers' role also has several parts – creating a great classroom environment, developing age appropriate curriculum, providing consistent discipline, and demonstrating love and affection.

I often say, if our MPP students head off to elementary school **LOVING** school, we've done our job well. Here's to a great new start!

Cheers,
Sarah Tomaka, Director



**Happy belated summer birthday to –
Ms. Kay, Ms. Julie Ann and Ms. Kim Williams!**

Jungle Jam Returns By Popular Request!

We are excited that Jungle Jam will be happening this fall -- **October 13th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm!** So mark your calendars. Over the next few weeks, be on the lookout for opportunities to help with this fun, family, community-wide event. Each child will be selling tickets to a raffle to be held during Jungle Jam, so check your child's bag in the upcoming weeks for your tickets and instructions. In addition, if you would like to help plan the event, please contact one of the chairs of the committee. We'll be asking all families to help on the day of the event so stay tuned for volunteer sign up opportunities! Jungle Jam is sure to be a great day and we're looking forward to spending it with your family!

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

Extra Curriculum Classes

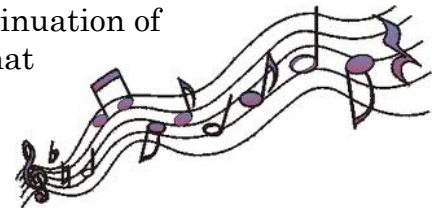
These classes are offered by independent companies. Please contact them directly for more information and registration procedures.

Ballet-Tap – offered by Creative Movement and Dance for children ages 3 and up who are potty trained. Ballet-Tap will be held on Monday afternoons from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. Register at www.creativemovementanddance.com.



Playball – offered for children ages 3 and 4. Threes will have Playball on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00; Pre-K will have Playball on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00. Register by emailing Connie at frankel220@bellsouth.net.

MusiCanopy – offered for children ages 3 and 4. This is a continuation of our popular 2s program and will include activities and songs that broaden their musical experience. MusiCanopy will be held Wednesdays from 1:00 to 1:45. Register at www.TheMusicClass.com.



Yoga – Yoga is an uplifting, noncompetitive, mind-expanding way for children to build strength, spirit and self-esteem. Kimberly Williams, certified yoga instructor, is offering children's yoga for 3s and pre-k – interactive and imaginative journeys into your child's developing mind, body and spirit. Yoga is offered on Fridays from 1:00 to 1:30 and you can sign up with Ms. Kim at knwilliams72@yahoo.com.

A Few Reminders

Arrival and Dismissal

Toddlers and twos are escorted to and picked up from their rooms. Remember to sign the sheet provided for both drop off and pick up. For **threes and pre-k** we are asking that you drop your child off at the entry portico rather than taking them all the way to their rooms. There will be teachers assisting me in making sure the children make it safely and happily to their classrooms. This is NOT required and of course, if you want to walk your child to their classroom you may, but we encourage you to try this as soon as you and your child feel comfortable with this system. It is important to remember that drop off time is not an appropriate time to chat with the teachers – they need to attend to your children. For dismissal for threes and fours the children will wait just inside the building; as you arrive, please wait outside while we call your child to come out to you. We appreciate your support and patience as we work to make arrival and dismissal smooth.



Changes in Pick Up Routine

Speaking of dismissal, remember that you are required to provide written notification if someone different is picking up your child from school. It is not sufficient to assume that someone on your emergency contacts list can just show up to pick your child up. In an emergency or if plans change during the day, you must call and leave me a message in the office – 404/685-8758.



Safety First

Often families want to extend their social time by playing and chatting after school gets out. You are **always** welcome to go to the playground if it is not being used during school hours. However, a few reminders about the playground – please do not let your children throw toys, especially from the height of the playscape. Do not allow them to stand on top of the playhouse and other such risky endeavors. If the children want to play in the sandbox, make sure to cover it if you are the last to leave the playground. Support us in the “no sticks” rule. If you want to socialize a bit near the school, do not let your children run loose near the parking lot – they should be well inside the grassy area to the side of the building. And, one more thing, there is a fair amount of poison ivy in those woods. We try to keep a handle on it, but it tends to be a losing battle! Your child’s comfort AND safety is very important to us!



Health

The rule of thumb is that any fever, diarrhea, vomiting or open sores from a rash are automatic grounds for staying home. Your child must be free of any such symptoms **without** medication for 24 hours before they can return.

Please do not send your child to school after giving meds for those symptoms.

There are other occasions when a child might just need a break – a heavy cough, super runny nose, allergies, etc. If in doubt, please give me a call and we can discuss the situation. In any case, please let the office know if your child is going to be absent (or late) so I can inform the teachers.

From the Preschool Committee Chairman

On behalf of the Preschool Committee, welcome to the 2012-2013 school year at Morningside Presbyterian Preschool! The parent and staff energy at Meet & Greet and in the hallways during this first week of school has been wonderful to see, and is a surefire way to kick-off a great school year for our children!

As part of this welcome, I would like to introduce our Preschool Committee:

Eleanor Attwood – Eleanor has just joined the Preschool Committee this year, and she and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church. Eleanor's son Locke will be entering the three's class this year.

Anne Barnette – Anne is just beginning her first year of service on the Preschool Committee, but is certainly not new to MPP. Her son Mac graduated from MPP in 2010, and her second son Sawyer has just started preK this year. She and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Shannon Courtney – Shannon is new to the Committee and new to MPP this year. Her daughter Sloane has started in the toddler's class, and Shannon will be acting as the class representative for the toddler class.

Preston Ladds – Preston is joining our Preschool Committee this year as the class representative for the preK class. His son Quade graduated from MPP in 2011 and his son Jack is in preK this year.

Amanda Lewis – Amanda is another new member of the Preschool Committee, and she and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church. Her son Graham is in preK and her daughter Wren is starting her MPP career in the toddler class this year.

Georgia Marshall – Georgia is a long-time dedicated member of Morningside Presbyterian Church, and has served on our Preschool Committee for 4 years. She teaches Science weekly to the three-year-olds and can often be found substitute teaching in all the different classrooms.

Kim Nuckols – Kim has been a member of the Preschool Committee for 6 years. Her daughters Brooks and Anna graduated from MPP in 2010, and her daughter Katharine is currently in the two's class. Kim is the current Preschool Committee Chairman through the end of the calendar year. Kim and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Jenn Packer – This is Jenn's second year on the Preschool Committee, and she is the class representative for the two's class. Her son Van is in preK, and her younger son Sidney is in the two's class.

Melinda Sandkam – Melinda is the Program Director for Morningside Presbyterian Church and is the main liaison between the Church and the Preschool.

Carol Senf – Carol has been a member of the Preschool Committee for 6 years, and is also a member of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Liz Sommerfeld – Liz has served on the Preschool Committee for 2 years. Her son Daniel graduated in 2011 from MPP, her daughter Charlotte will be in the three's class, and her youngest daughter Sarah Elizabeth is starting in the two's class. Liz currently serves as the Preschool Committee Secretary and will move into the Chairman role as of January 2013. Liz is also a member of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Sarah Tomaka – Sarah is the Director of Morningside Presbyterian Preschool, and holds a seat on the Preschool Committee. Prior to beginning her Director role in 2009, she served on the Preschool Committee since its inception. Sarah is a member of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Beth Vlerick – Beth is just beginning her second year of service on the Preschool Committee as the class representative for the three-year-old class. Her son Charlie graduated from MPP in 2011, and her daughter Ellen will be in the three's class this fall.

Please seek out these Preschool Committee members in our hallways, or by phone or email – we look forward to hearing from you. Our Committee is here to serve our parents, teachers and staff and anything we can do to help, we will be more than willing.

I'll leave you with one thought - a challenge to both our new and old parents - get involved in your Preschool! Know your teachers, your director, your child's friends and their parents... you'll be glad you did!

Kim Nuckols
Preschool Committee Chairman

Coming Soon

Project 20/20 Vision Screening - Wednesday, September 19



Did you know? . . . one in four school-age children have some sort of vision problem. We welcome Project 20/20 back to MPP this fall to conduct vision screening. It is available to children who are two or older. Cost is \$24 and there is a break on the cost for siblings. Be on the look out for more information and registration forms.

Free Speech and Language Screening on Wednesday, September 26

Speech Source Atlanta is offering a free speech and language screening for all Morningside Presbyterian Preschool students 2-6 years old. There will be a permission form in your child's bag next week. Please fill out the permission form and return to the preschool office. Early detection is important to decrease the length of intervention needed, decrease your child's frustrations, and increase the amount of meaningful communication with peers and adults. If you have concerns or questions about a child who is outside of this age range, please contact Katy Stout directly at 678/538-8775 to request a free consultation to discuss developmental norms.



Children's Photos – October 1-5



Individual portraits will be taken starting Monday, October 3. Ms. Denise will be our photographer this year. We'll let you know the specific dates for each age group soon.

If you would like to have siblings sit together as well as individually, please let us know.

Extended Day for Twos

Parents have asked whether they need to register for extended day, beginning in October. This is not necessary. Simply send your child in with a lunch. We will record the days your child stays and at the end of the month give you an invoice. The cost is \$7.50/day up to a cap of \$60/month.

