



MPP Messenger

November 2012

Mark Your Calendar!

November 5-9 – All-Star Book Fair

November 6 – Closed for Election Day

November 7 – Walk to School Day

November 12 – Thanksgiving Gathering

November 14 – Chapel

November 15 – Prospective Parent Tour

November 19-23 – Thanksgiving Break,
no school

Looking Ahead

December 3 – Free Holiday Babysitting

December 12 – Carols & Coffee

From the Director

One of the many perks of working in a preschool is the opportunity to express gratitude in so many ways and for so many things. I am totally thankful for real fall weather and the beautiful blue skies we've had so often recently. But here at MPP, we also have a multitude of reasons to be grateful.

I'm grateful for the awesome teachers who give so much of their time and energy to your children. They care deeply and try to make every day special for their students. They astound me with their creativity and dedication.

I'm grateful for the church that gives us a home. We are very important to the church and they support us in so many ways – often behind the scenes and sometimes in very outward ways, such as Free Holiday Babysitting and this month's Thanksgiving Gathering. Hope to see everyone there – it is so much fun!

I'm grateful for you, parents and caregivers. The energy and enthusiasm you show for MPP is amazing! Your generosity and support of all our events and collections indicate just how very involved you are in your children's lives. And, when I see your happy smiles when you pick up your children, I just LOVE it!

And, I hope you know this already, but I'm grateful for your children. They are the reason we're here – their smiles, their cute words of wisdom, their twinkling eyes, their big appetites, their clever artwork, their love for one another, their stories from home – all of it!! We just enjoy them all so much. Thank you for sharing them with us and giving us the opportunity to love your children!

Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels.

Sarah Tomaka, Director



Congratulations to . . .

Molly and John Scott and big sister Julia on the birth of William “Henry”, IV on October 9.



New Addresses . . .

Harper Schoen (Julie & Mark), 1203 Zimmer Drive, Atlanta, GA 30306

Katie Wiseman (Nicole & Chad), 1365 E Rock Springs Rd, Atlanta, GA 30306



Thank You . . .

. . . *Sandra Adams, Emily Carlson and Jenn Packer and ALL* the volunteers who worked day in and day out to make this the best Jungle Jam ever! We loved the crisp fall weather, the awesome bouncy “rides”, and the yummy food – especially Mrs. Neff’s bake sale! At press time our net receipts totaled almost \$6800, but most importantly our entire community came together for fun and fellowship.

. . . *all the wonderful friends who dined at El Taco* in support of MPP. We had over 160 supporters which resulted in a donation of \$656 from our partners at the Fifth Group. Olé!

. . . *the Outreach Committee and Lydia’s Circle* for their work with Our House in collecting mittens, scarves, hats and coats PLUS the cutest Halloween costumes ever! Of course, they could not have done it without your generosity and amazing support!

. . . *Melinda Sandkam, Beth Vlerick and their merry troupe of Children’s Library volunteers.* They are making our former Media Center into a more child-friendly library. Please take some time to visit – a work in progress, it’s already looking great!

. . . *Kris Smith and her Open House volunteers* for a fun and festive event! The refreshments were quite delicious and it was great to see our former students who are getting so big.

Reminders . . .

Pick up time is **noon** for toddlers and twos not staying for extended day and **one o’clock** for extended day, 3s and 4s. The teachers depend on having time after pick up to clean and plan for the next day, so every minute counts.

That said, please allow plenty of time to arrive for drop off and pick up – the traffic congestion around those times can create a dangerous situation in the parking lot and on Wessyngton. Thank you for your attention to these matters!



Upcoming . . .

READ MORE! SHINE BRIGHTER!



Our **All-Star Book Fair: Every Reader Is a Star!** – will be brightly shining at MPP soon! This is part of an exciting reading event that brings to MPP a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books our kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get. There will be an opportunity to purchase books for the MPP Library and donate select books to Our House, during this event as well.

Mark your calendar and let your child's reading skills shine!

Book Fair Dates: Monday, Nov. 5th, Wednesday, Nov. 7th- Friday, Nov. 9th

Shopping Hours: 8:45 AM - 1:15 PM (Mon. 11 AM - 1:15 PM)

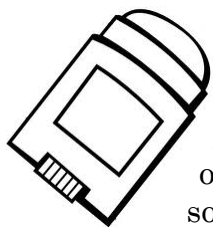
*Can't make the Book Fair or just prefer to shop online? Visit:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/mpp>

Preschool Committee Greeters



Starting this month, you will get to see the face of our Preschool Committee more often – or should I say “faces”. There will be a representative from the Committee joining me once a week at the entrance to say hello. Please introduce yourselves so that the Committee can get to know you and you can learn their names as well.



Chapel Toiletry Donations – Wednesday, November 14

This month we will be collecting men's deodorant at chapel time. 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.

Prospective Parent Tours

This year we are repeating the very popular Prospective Parent Tours from last year. These are group tours led by current parents which allow the visiting parents to talk with folks who really know the scoop! The dates for these tours are November 15, December 6 and January 10. They begin at 9:15 a.m. If you know anyone who might be interested in attending a tour, please have them call or email Sarah, 404/685-8758 or mpp@morningsidepc.org.



Thanksgiving Gathering

Morningside Presbyterian Church *gives thanks* for Our Preschool Community

Come explore the spirit of giving at our annual Thanksgiving Gathering, Monday, Nov. 12th, 5:30 - 6:45pm. Everyone is invited to enjoy a free dinner in Fellowship Hall featuring chicken tenders, mac 'n cheese, green beans, green salad, corn muffins, and pumpkin ice cream, water, iced tea, and cider. Crafts, games, face painting and music by the MPC Cherub Choir will encourage us to think about reaching out to others and giving thanks.

In this spirit, help kick-off our canned-food drive for the Atlanta Community Food Bank by bringing in non-perishable items for the big blue bin.

Our goal is to have 125 adults and 75 kids join us for this evening of fun and thanksgiving. We hope you will be one of them! RSVP's are requested for this event, by Nov 8th! Please contact Jennifer James to RSVP at jennjames@comcast.net or 404-583-3207.

Free Holiday Babysitting

All are welcome to enjoy **Free Holiday Babysitting** on **Monday, December 3rd, 5-8 p.m.** Morningside Presbyterian Church members will be volunteering to keep your kids while you shop, decorate the house, enjoy dinner with your spouse and/or friends! You **must** sign up your child ahead of time, so that we have enough babysitters in place. Please RSVP today to Jennifer James at jennjames@comcast.net by **Wed., Nov. 28th** with the names and ages of children AND the current class that they are in at MPP or grade. All children 3 months through 5th grade are welcome. We love to see MPP alumni back for the evening. And, this is truly open to the community, so tell your friends and neighbors to sign up today.



Pizza will be served for dinner (parents with infants and toddlers, be sure to bring any different foods needed). Dessert will be ice cream. Be sure to let us know of any allergies.

A Look at Financials

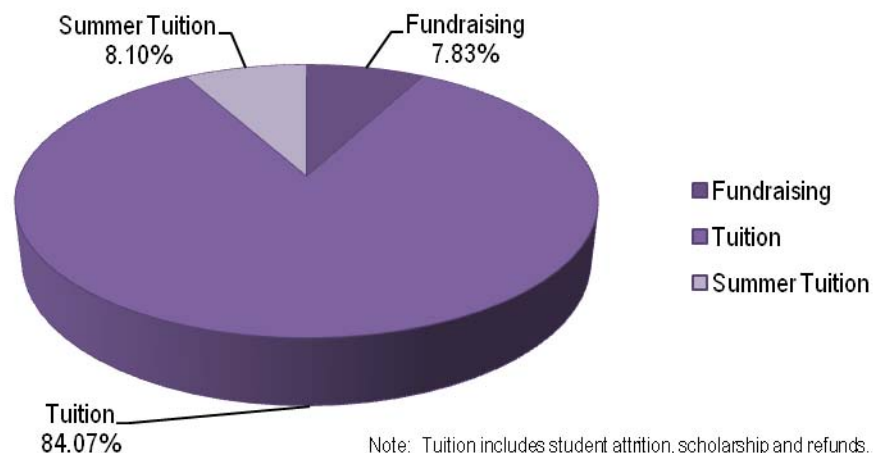
Many thanks to **Amanda Lewis**, Preschool Committee member, for developing these pie charts to share a breakdown of our MPP annual budget. Notice that our tuition does not fully cover all of our expenses, therefore our annual MPP fundraisers are vitally important to supplement annual revenue.

Last year we had our most successful fundraiser to date, our 10th

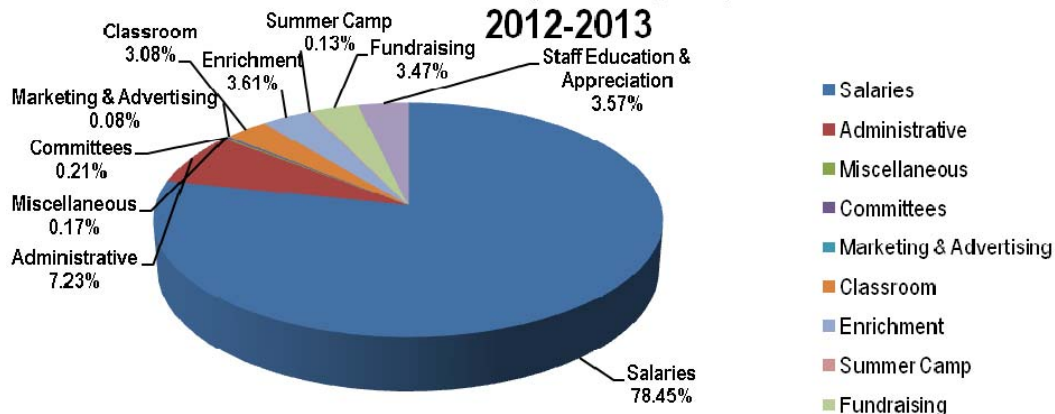
Anniversary Birthday Bash at Druid Hills Golf Club. It was a wonderful event from start to finish with great leadership from Jo Birch and Leigh Arwood and a strong crew of volunteers. We celebrated, bid on fun auction items, had delicious food and drinks, and

recognized our 10-year veteran teachers, Ms. Kay and Ms. Kim W. And, in the end, we raised approximately \$22,600. That combined with our other fundraisers such as the Dine Out events and Jungle Jam totalled about \$28,845. Whew! So, many of you may be asking, "Wow, that's great! What are we going to spend it on?" The main thing that is supported with fundraisers is our enrichment programming – music, creative movement, Spanish and science, as well as extra personnel for afternoon enrichment programs. However, in addition to enrichment, last year we made some facility improvements by building closets and cabinets to enhance our storage. We spent money on extra field trips, new toys for the Fellowship Hall and playground, and classroom parties. We purchased a new printer for the library, leased a new copier that makes color copies – faster, and over 25 new die cuts for the teacher resource room. Future expenditures may include such things as furniture and carpets that need replacing. Another important fact to note is that we choose to maintain a 3 month financial cushion in our bank accounts in case of emergency or needed capital improvements. So, as you can see, many of the things that maintain our program and support our teachers are supplemented by our fundraising. Another great reason to thank YOU!

MPP Annual Operating Revenue 2012-2013



MPP Annual Operating Expenses 2012-2013



Spotlight on Toddlers

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool classes follow guidelines that form the foundation of our child-centered teaching philosophy. These goals and objectives help provide developmental building blocks that will help the children progress successfully while at the same time allowing for flexibility and attention to the individual needs of each child. It is important to note that every child is unique and acquires these skills in his or her own time. This month we are sharing our guidelines for Toddlers.



Goals and Objectives for Toddlers

Independence in:

- separation from caregiver
- getting up and down stairs safely
- sitting in structured group time for 5 minutes, for example – circle time during which the teacher introduces colors, shapes and simple songs/fingerplays as well as reading short books.
- handling transitions without crying
- getting used to the routine/schedule (understanding what's next)
- following simple 2-step instructions
- indicating preferences (non-verbally or with simple language)

Continued growth in:

- communication skills (non-verbal and verbal)
- fine motor skills (grasping utensils)
- gross motor skills (push/pull toys, dance, climb)
- self-help skills (cleaning snack area, awareness of personal needs)
- imaginative play, allowing the children to free play in the dramatic play area and in the blocks center
- asking for help
- persistence in problem solving, encouraging play with stacking toys, sorting toys and very simple puzzles.
- desire to learn by exploring, offering time at a sensory table where young children learn to pour, scoop and manipulate things that flow

Introduction to:

- cooperative play w/ teacher guidance
- shapes/colors, through teacher guided art projects
- books
- potty training (for some)
- simple songs and finger plays
- socializing with peers
- using manners (please, thank you, etc)
- difference between safe and unsafe behaviors & environments
- art through sensory exploration (fingerpaint, clay, etc)