



MPP Messenger

January 2013

Mark Your Calendar!

January 7 – Back to school

January 9 – Mrs. James's birthday

January 9 – Chapel/toiletry donations

January 10 – Prospective Parent Tour

January 15 – Ms. Deena's birthday

January 18 – Early release for staff development. Dismissal at noon for ALL students

January 21 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – school closed

January 22 – Registration for 2013-2014 begins for currently enrolled families and church members

January 30 – Young Audiences performance

Looking Ahead to February

February 4 – Registration opens to community

February 9 – MPP FUN-raiser

February 12 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

From the Director

Ahhh! A fresh start – yea for a new year! I do not often make New Year's resolutions, but I do want to share with you some things that I have learned over the years that are important. The old adage, "never go to bed angry" is true, but so is "never say good-bye angry". Trust is easily broken and so hard to repair. Act now; ask permission later is a recipe for disaster. A kind word can work miracles. Hugs are the BEST! These are just a few good things to live by, and not only for the first few weeks of the year!

In the wake of the horrible news we got on December 14, I received quite a few questions about our emergency policy/procedures here at MPP and I want to make you aware of those. First of all, as you know, there is always a staff member at the door during arrival and dismissal. If we do not recognize someone, we ask for ID. We require you to send a note or call if pick up plans change. Our doors, including the door leading to the preschool wing from the church offices, are locked during preschool hours. We conduct fire and tornado drills. We do background checks on subs as well as all staff. Two adults are required to be with the children. The teachers and I have an Emergency Plan manual that details what to do in all sorts of emergencies including such things as a missing child, poisoning, abduction and intruder situations. We all hate to think that any of these might happen, but if we are not prepared for the worst then we are not living up to our promise to care for your children. You can help us all out by adhering to note sending and other safety-related policies and introducing us to new nannies and relatives who might be picking up.

Bottom line is, we care deeply about your children. If you ever have any questions or concerns at all, please let me know.

Sarah Tomaka, *Director*



Welcome to . . .

Elizabeth 'Belle' O'Brien, new little sister to Ellis in Ms. Andie and Ms. Julie Ann's toddler class. Emily, Eric and Ellis welcomed Elizabeth to their family on December 20.



Owen and **Colin Murphy** are joining the MPP family. Owen will be in the Three Day Threes class and Colin will be in Mrs. Neff and Mrs. James's PreK class. Their parents are Katie and Bill Murphy. Their address is 1901 Westminster Way NE, Atlanta 30307; best phone number: 608/335-5056; and Katie's email is: knoonan76@yahoo.com.

Olivia Steimle is also joining us – in our Two Day Twos class. Her parents are Marissa and Michael Steimle. Their address is 578 Goldsboro Road, Atlanta, GA 30307; best phone number: 404/226-8045; and Marissa's email is: s.marissalopez@hotmail.com.

In our prayers . . .

Deb Lange (Hayden in 5-day 3s) on the death of her father, Bill Arnold on December 13.

New Addresses . . .

Daniel Min (Junki & Songyee), 1408 Rock Springs Cir NE Apt. 4-1410 Atlanta GA 30306

Thanks . . .

- ✓ To **Jennifer James, Melinda Sandkam, teachers from MPP** and the **many volunteers from MPC** for three hours of Free Holiday Babysitting on December 3rd. A Holiday favorite for sure!
- ✓ There were several huge, overflowing canisters of packaged food for the **Holiday Canned Food Drive** thanks in great part to your generosity. The Atlanta Community Food Bank thanks you.
- ✓ To **ALL of you** for my holiday and half birthday gifts! You are all so sweet and I appreciate your generosity.

Upcoming . . .

Chapel Toiletry Donations – Wednesday, January 9

This month we will be collecting **chapstick** and **hand lotion** at chapel time. 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.



Save the Corks!

Keep your corks out of the landfill! The MPP Environmental Committee will be collecting corks through the end of January. Just drop your corks in the marked container located next to the Preschool entrance when you drop off your child. It couldn't be easier to be a bit greener this holiday season.

2013-2014 School Registration

Early registration for currently enrolled families and MPC members begins Tuesday, January 22. You can now download the necessary forms at http://www.morningsidepc.org/preschool/registration_procedure.html. Also, look for an email from me the second week of January with attachments of the forms to serve as a further reminder. Please submit your application no later than February 3 as open registration will begin on Monday, February 4. Although we certainly hope you all return, please let me know if you have other plans for next year, so that I can be aware of spaces available to the general public.



Currently enrolled students who register during this early registration period are guaranteed enrollment, but availability for a particular class is not guaranteed. We will follow birthday guidelines as detailed on the application form and in determining the specific classrooms we take into account several factors such as gender balance, age and class dynamics.

Applications should be completed and returned to **Sarah**

Tomaka, Preschool Director.

Save the Date!! MPP FUN-Raiser

Hold your calendars (and get ready to open your hearts and wallet) for the 2013 MPP FUN-Raiser to be held 7:00pm on Saturday February 9th at Le Maison Rouge (the events room at Paris on Ponce). The event promises to be a fun evening of celebrating our preschool and mingling with our extended MPP family. Much like years past, the centerpiece of our event is a Live and Silent Auction featuring donated items from neighborhood merchants, MPP families, teachers and of course the art projects from each class! Our Auction Committee has already reached out to over 75 local merchants. Please contact Chris Wilson at cgideonwilson@aol.com if you have questions or suggestions. This year we will say good-bye to the silent auction clipboards and post those items via a smart phone app that will allow you to keep an eye on your bid without leaving the dance floor. And be sure to keep an eye on the MPP Facebook page as we will post the auction items in advance of the event. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morningside-Presbyterian-Preschool/139745392735800#!/pages/Morningside-Presbyterian-Preschool/139745392735800>

Save the Date!

MPP FUN-Raiser

Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Le Maison Rouge at Paris on Ponce

Introducing Our Annual Fund

We have heard parents question where our fundraising dollars go, so we would like to explain the **Annual Fund** for Morningside Presbyterian Preschool.

Our **Annual Fund** ensures that MPP children will continue to grow and be nurtured in a warm and loving environment where the children learn through play. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of operating our school, thus we depend on **Annual Fund** support to help make up the difference. At a preschool the size of MPP, it takes a commitment from the entire community to support this exceptional environment for our children.

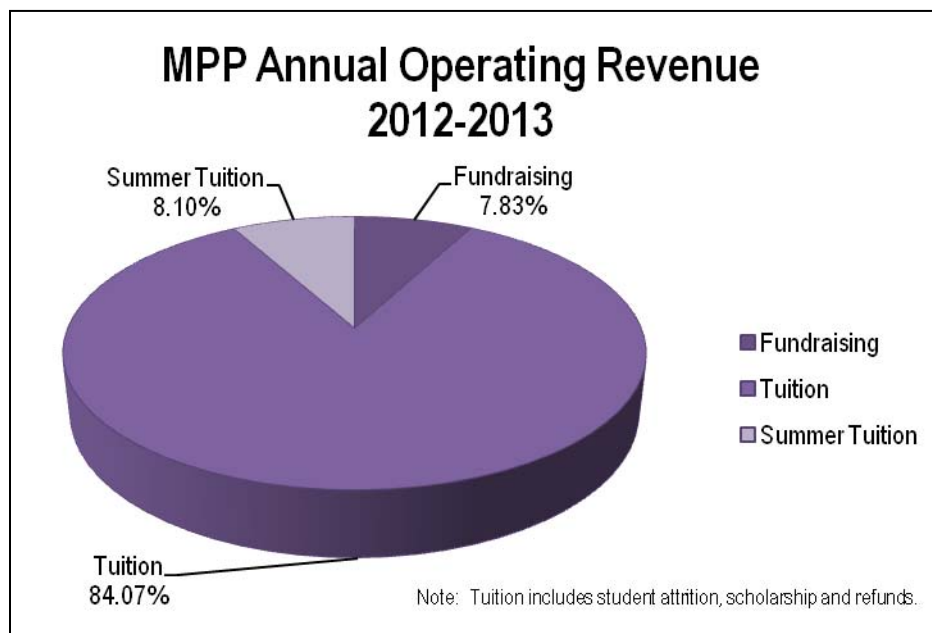
Your **Annual Fund** gifts set the stage for...

- An active environment where children learn through play and become happy, life-long learners.
- Loving and nurturing teachers who follow guidelines that form a foundation for their child-centered teaching philosophy.
- A variety of enrichment opportunities encouraging children to reach their full potential.
- Expansion of our program to best serve our community.
- Scholarship assistance for families in need of a helping hand.

Ways to give...

- Support MPP events and Dine Outs by purchasing tickets, attending, and bidding on auction items.
- Be a sponsor of MPP annual fundraising events, including the Annual Fun-Raiser and Jungle Jam.
- Make a tax-deductible donation via check to the MPP **Annual Fund**.

All members of the MPP community are encouraged to support the **Annual Fund** at the level that is best for your family. Within our small community, your support makes a big difference for our teachers and our children!



Spotlight on Three Year Olds

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 Three Year Olds.



Goals and Objectives for Three Year Olds

Independence in:

- bathroom habits and grooming
- peer interaction
- resolving conflict, teacher may intervene as necessary, but children are encouraged to work things out for themselves as much as possible
- eating skills
- dressing – putting on and taking off coats, shoes and socks
- navigating stairs
- opening and closing objects such as book bags, lunch boxes, etc.
- entering classroom with ease

Continued growth in:

- respect for teachers and peers
- sitting quietly for longer periods
- listening to more detailed books
- memorizing songs and fingerplays
- creative and imaginative play, increased cooperative play with one another and in small groups – games and puzzles and free play
- science and exploration, facilitated with our Science teacher, but also during nature walks, a science center in the room with magnets, magnifying glasses and so on
- following directions
- developing and strengthening fine motor skills, cutting, tearing, playdough, smaller manipulatives
- using words instead of hands
- Spanish

- improving speech and manners
- learning to be patient and wait
- communication skills and ability to express an idea/feeling to peers

Introduction to:

- letter recognition and sounds, bringing show and tell items that begin with letter of the week, making short word lists, reading books that highlight letter of the week
- writing name, often accomplished through tracing
- number recognition and counting, looking at pictures and reading books that talk about numbers, counting all the time
- cutting with scissors
- gluing neatly
- fine motor development using table manipulatives and puzzles
- color identification, with more emphasis on mastery
- shape identification, with more emphasis on mastery
- literature awareness and creating stories, through dictating stories that go with artwork and introduction to well-known authors, such as Dr. Seuss and Eric Carle
- how to handle and read books