



MPP Messenger

February 2013

Mark Your Calendar!

February 4 – Registration opens to community

February 9 – MPP FUN-raiser

February 12 – Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper and Pajama party,
5:45-6:30

February 13 – Chapel and toiletry
donations

February 18 – President's Day, no
school

Looking Ahead to March

March 1 – Georgia Preschool
Conference, no school

March 19 – La Tavola Dine Out



From the Director

Once again our registration materials are flowing in fast and furiously. It is such a strong indicator of the top-notch reputation MPP carries in the community. We are so proud to be able to serve so many families and children and thank all of you for helping to spread the word. Naturally, I have to also thank the teachers who are the backbone of the program and help make this such a popular destination for preschoolers!

While this may seem like a quiet time on the calendar, I know you must be aware of our Annual FUN-raiser which is Saturday, February 9. And, I can assure you, for some of our parents, these past few weeks have not been a quiet at all. Chris Wilson and his intrepid crew of volunteers have been slaving away to create a fun, casual evening of celebrating our preschool. We've got tons of donations rolling in, adorable class artwork done by your children, our caterer lined up and are utilizing a 21st century method of bidding – on smart phones & computers! This way we won't be trampling over each other to get to the bid sheets and can have more fun socializing. We have more specific details on how all that works on page two of this newsletter. Check it out and let the bidding begin! If you haven't already done so, buy your tickets, book those babysitters and get ready for fun times!

Here's to love, fun and happy celebrations!

Cheers!

Sarah Tomaka, Director



**Saturday, February 9
from 7:00-11:00 pm
716 Ponce de Leon Place**

Let's Get this Party Started!

This year's MPP FUN-raiser promises to be the fun social event of the year and we are excited to be hosting it at Le Maison Rouge @ Paris on Ponce.

Tickets are \$50 a person with all proceeds going to MPP's top-notch programming and toward providing and well-rounded experiences at all age levels. This evening will provide a chance for all MPP parents, teachers and friends to enjoy good food & drink in a casual, fun atmosphere, good company and most

importantly, to support a good cause - our kids and MPP!

This year we are introducing online bidding through BiddingForGood.com. This way you can preview AND begin bidding ahead of time. Go to MPP's BiddingForGood webpage to register. Once you have registered you will be able to see silent auction items, bid, donate and prepare your smartphone for the evening. ***See below for details on how to register and bid.*** Remember, we will also feature a live auction that includes your children's artwork as well as other extra special items. All Facebook users, please remember to "like" us on Facebook so you don't miss any updates regarding the LIVE and silent auctions and to view the full list of auction items.

Look forward to seeing all of you there!

Chris Wilson and FUN-raiser volunteers

Your ticket will provide:

- ❖ **SILENT AUCTION** including a wide variety of items from local businesses (restaurant gift cards, jewelry, photo sittings, artwork, pet services, entertainment tickets & more)
- ❖ **LIVE AUCTION** showcasing our children's artwork, vacation homes & more
- ❖ Lavish selection of elegant **HORS D'OEUVRES**
- ❖ **OPEN BAR**
- ❖ Complimentary **VALET**

So how will the Silent Auction work this year?

For 2013, MPP has partnered with BiddingForGood.com to help run our online auction during the MPP FUN-raiser. Here are some step by step instructions so you can bid with ease at our event.

- 1) Go to www.biddingforgood.com and set up an account. It's easy and quick!
- 2) You will need to add a credit card to your account to submit a bid for an auction item (your card will not be charged as you bid on items).
- 3) If you win an item(s) the night of the auction, we can process your payment on your submitted credit card to make check-out a breeze, or if you prefer we can accept a check or cash and your credit card will not be charged.
- 4) Download the BiddingForGood app on any smartphone.
- 5) If you don't have a smartphone, don't worry! We will have 5 bidding stations that will allow you to enter bids at the event
- 6) You can also get a head start by looking at our online items and enter bids beginning Friday February 1st!

Welcome to . . .

William Branon, new little brother to Cate in Ms. Debbi and Ms. Karen's class and Molly in Ms. Kim and Ms. Kay's class. Carrie, Brendan, Cate and Molly welcomed William to their family on January 12.



Maya Vasquez, new little sister to Eiley in Ms. Andie and Ms. Denise's class. Kristin, Michael and Eiley welcomed Maya to their family on January 15.

Chapel Toiletry Donations – Wednesday, February 13

This month we will be collecting **tissues** at chapel time. There will be a basket for donations in front of the sanctuary so anyone can participate. Remember that parents are always welcome to attend chapel. It is at 9:15 a.m.



Be GREEN for St. Patrick's Day weekend (and the earth!)

On Saturday, March 16th from 8:00am-12:00 noon MPP will be partnering with Atlanta paint disposal <http://www.atlantapaintdisposal.com/> to collect and recycle or dispose of household items in an environmentally friendly manner. Collection site will be the preschool parking lot. MPP will earn 15% of profits of items collected to help fund preschool environmental projects.

This is a great way to care for our earth & clean out your home – hope to see you there.

Your Preschool Committee at Work

Last spring, many of you participated in strategic plan focus groups and offered feedback that helped generate new ideas for the direction of our preschool over the next three years. Members of the preschool committee spoke with parents, teachers and church members, and held a final brainstorming session to determine our goals and objectives for the foreseeable future.

We would like to share the five focus areas from the 2013-2015 Long-Range Plan that we think will set our already excellent preschool on a path to soar to new heights.

- Supporting MPP Staff
- Defining Curriculum and Class Structure
- Evaluating Volunteer Committees
- Reviewing Enrichment Programs
- Improving Facilities



We are pleased to have several preschool committee team members working on each core area of focus. For many of the groups, a task force of parents and teachers will be created to help carry out much of the work. Your continued input on this exciting plan is extremely valuable to the process. If you know you would like to be involved in a certain focus area or if you have questions, please contact me at elizabethsommerfeld@gmail.com. Thanks!

~**Liz**, Preschool Committee chairperson



SHROVE Tuesday PANCAKE SUPPER & PAJAMA PARTY

Morningside Presbyterian Church and Preschool invite you to join us!

TUESDAY, February 12th

5:30 to 6:45PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP's are requested for this event to

jennjames@comcast.net, by Feb 6th.

Help us celebrate Shrove Tuesday with your fellow preschool families!

Enjoy dinner for the whole family while **Bill Packard - The Magic Man** delights kids and adults with his tricks and antics!

We will be collecting **NEW** pajamas, socks and underwear for **THREADS**, a children's clothing ministry of All-Saints Episcopal Church.

This event will be the kick-off of the **Coins for Clowns** fundraiser, to benefit Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Be sure to take home a coin bank!

You can wear your pajamas!

What is Shrove Tuesday? Why do we serve pancakes? What does it have to do with the beginning of Lent?



- Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began.
- As far back as 1000 AD, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions.
- Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden by the church to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they all would go bad by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do?
- Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... pancakes... and lots of them!
- Today, the Shrove Tuesday pancake tradition lives on throughout Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia, but is most associated with the UK where it is simply known as Pancake Day with a traditional recipe, although these can be as varied in the UK as there are British households.
- In France, (as well as here in the US – or more famously – in New Orleans) it's known as Fat Tuesday which kicks off the **Mardi Gras** festival with wild celebrations just before the austere Lenten season.



Spotlight on Four 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 Four Year Olds.



Goals and Objectives for Pre-Kindergarten

Social and Emotional

- inspire and encourage positive self-esteem, through mastery of new skills
- inspire and encourage respect for others
- learn to play cooperatively – sharing and using acceptable manners
- develop imagination and express artistic creativity, through free art opportunities
- develop language skills and verbalization, through dictating short stories and communicating needs and feelings
- develop listening skills, for both large and small group learning
- follow directions

Reading and Math Readiness

- identify colors (primary, secondary and pastel), through teacher guided art projects
- identify and match shapes (square, circle, rectangle, triangle)
- recognize numbers 1-30, understand the meaning of numerals, number concepts such as 1 dozen, through number activities and art projects
- rote count 1-100
- count using one-to-one correspondence
- recognize the alphabet, A-Z, upper and lower case and put the alphabet in order
- discern initial sounds, rhyming, opposites, etc., through word lists, letter projects, and reading books that emphasize rhyming

Understanding and Awareness

- know, recognize, spell and write own name, first and last, using appropriate capitalization
- know complete street address
- know birthday (month, day, year)
- know complete phone number
- aware of family (names, ages, occupations)
- understand time concepts (months, weeks, days, before & after, etc.)
- know body parts (waist, shoulder, ankle, thigh, wrist, chest, knees, hips, etc.)
- able to draw self-portrait
- know left and right
- identify directions (above, below, beside, etc.)
- identify quantities, measurements (more, slower, taller, biggest, etc.)
- able to investigate scientific concepts – asking questions and exploring
- identify same and different
- able to sequence events
- learn more advanced Spanish vocabulary

Fine Motor

- develop cutting, coloring, gluing skills, through daily practice on art projects that become more complex over the year
- able to tie shoelaces, zip, button and snap
- develop hand-eye coordination (trace and draw shapes, complete a maze, tear paper, etc.)
- use proper hand position in writing

Gross Motor

These are accomplished during Creative Movement class as well as ample time on the playground each day.

- accomplish grand movements such as: hopping, jumping, leaping, galloping and skipping
- develop balancing skills (balance beam, foam discs on head)
- throw and catch balls (eye/hand coordination)
- manage body movements when in a group while participating in physical activities/games (not touching or running into others, staying with your group when you are a part of a team effort, learning the timing of running relays and waiting for your turn, like obstacle courses)
- able to swing independently, pumping legs
- able to move across the monkey bars