



MPP Messenger

September 2013

Mark Your Calendar!

August 31 – Ms. Kim's birthday

September 2 – Labor Day, **NO SCHOOL**

September 3 – Playball starts

September 5 – Yoga starts

September 9 – Science and Ballet start

September 10 – MusiCanopy starts (in class); September 11 (after school)

September 11 – Chapel

September 13 – Creative Movement and KidzTennis start

September 13 – Spanish starts

September 17 – Mini Monets Class starts

September 18 – Project 20/20 vision screening

September 19 – Ms. Debbi's birthday

September 20 – Early release – 12 noon

September 26 – Ms. Morgan's birthday

September 30 – Extended Day begins for 2's

Looking Ahead

October 2 – Speech and Language Screening

October 9 – International Walk to School Day

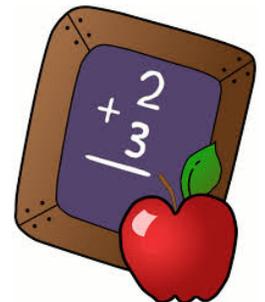
***October 23** – Open House (change of date)*

From the Director

Well, if you know where summer went, please tell me! I hope everyone had a fun, relaxing time and that you're as excited as the teachers and I are about the new school year. It's going to be a great one. Our MPP Messenger is one of the main ways we at the office communicate, so please take a moment to go over the calendar to the left – there are a ton of dates to note on your calendars at home. Read all about our Preschool Committee and some upcoming happenings in the life of MPP.

I'm thinking about a lot about numbers right now, so let me share some with you. We had **8** great weeks of summer camp and it kept us all so busy that time really flew by. I want to extend a warm welcome to our **20** new families and a big welcome back to our **60** returning families. **96** children bless our lives and warm our hearts every week. We have **5** new employees and **10** teachers who are returning. **3** of our teachers have been here for over **10** years and **2** for over **5**. We have **6** after or before school enrichment classes. The Preschool Committee is made up of **15** hard-working, dedicated volunteers. If you want to volunteer and get involved in your children's school, we have **12** great committees to choose from. And, lastly, this is my **fifth** year as MPP's director. These all add up to an extraordinary experience here at MPP. We are grateful you and your children are coming along for the ride.

Cheers,
Sarah Tomaka, Director



**Happy belated summer birthdays to –
Ms. Kay and Ms. Julie Ann!**

Jungle Jam

We are excited that Jungle Jam will be happening this fall -- October 19th 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 Chair & Co-Chair, *Julie Brow & Mary Hardy Holaway*

Coming Soon

Project 20/20 Vision Screening - Wednesday, September 18



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.

Children's Photos – early October



Individual portraits will be taken in early October. 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 Denise know which classes your children are in and make arrangements with her. denise@varnadoe.net.

Extended Day for Twos

Parents have asked whether they need to register for extended day, beginning in September 30 (since it's a Monday). 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.



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 encouraging 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 after 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! On another note, a big thank you to *Drew Kimball* and *Toby Hawkes* for refilling the sandbox.



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 2013-2014 school year at Morningside Presbyterian Preschool! We are so excited to start the new year! As you might have learned at Meet and Greet, the Preschool Committee is here to serve our parents, teachers, and staff so please seek us out if you have a question, concern, or just want to chat. We love hearing your thoughts!

General Members:

Eleanor Attwood – Eleanor is serving her second year of a two year term on the Preschool Committee, and she and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church. Eleanor's son Locke is in Ms. Neff's PreK class this year.

Anne Barnette – Anne is the Secretary of the Preschool Committee and will take over as Chairman in January 2014. She is a veteran MPP parent. Her son Mac graduated from MPP in 2010, and her second son Sawyer graduated this past May. Her third son, Preston, is a future MPP-er. She and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Alyssa Durden – This is Alyssa's first year on the Preschool Committee. Her older daughter Kate graduated from MPP in 2012 and her younger daughter Molly is in the three-day 3s class. Alyssa and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Amanda Lewis – Amanda is serving her second year of a two year term. Her son Graham graduated from the program last May, and her daughter Wren is in the older 2s class and the 2-day 2s class. She and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Georgia Marshall – Georgia is a long-time dedicated member of Morningside Presbyterian Church, and has served on our Preschool Committee for 5 years.

Suzanne Macpherson – Suzanne is a first time member of the Preschool Committee. Her daughter Bridget is in the older 2s class. Suzanne and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

Kim Nuckols – Kim has been a member of the Preschool Committee for 7 years. Her daughters Brooks and Anna graduated from MPP in 2010, and her daughter Katharine is currently in the three-day 3s class. Kim and her family are members of Morningside Presbyterian Church.

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 3 years. Her son Daniel graduated in 2011 from MPP, her daughter Charlotte is in Ms. Deena's PreK class, and her youngest daughter Sarah Elizabeth is in the three-day 3s class. Liz currently serves as the Preschool Committee Chairman through January 2014. 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.

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

Preschool Committee Class Representatives:

Bernadette Porter – Bernadette is the toddler class representative. Her daughter, Vivienne is a toddler, and her son Tate is in PreK. Her older son Ellis graduated from MPP in 2012. This is Bernadette's first term on the Preschool Committee.

David Lowery – This is David's first year on the Preschool Committee, and he is the class representative for the twos class. His daughter Charlotte and son William are in the younger 2s class.

Molly Scott – Molly is the class representative for the 3s class. Her daughter Julia is in the three-day 3s class. This is Molly's first term on the Preschool Committee.

Kelly Cobb – Kelly is the PreK class representative. Her older daughter, Kayla is in Ms. Deena's PreK class and her younger daughter Keira is in the older toddler class.

Finally, I'll leave you with one thought – a challenge to both our new and old parents – get involved in your Preschool! Volunteer on committees, sign up for shifts at Jungle Jam, get to know your teachers, your director, your child's friends and their parents... you'll be glad you did!

Liz Sommerfeld
Preschool Committee Chairman

Enrichment 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. Currently our Ballet/Tap class is **FULL**.



Playball – offered for children in the 3s classes and PreK classes. 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.

Mini Monets Art Class -

Art class offered to students in 3s and PreK classes. Based on famous children's illustrators, including Eric Carle, Mo Willems, Donald Crews, Leo Lionni & Dr. Seuss. Children will create different works of art inspired by illustrators. This includes several large pieces of art that will take several classes to complete, along with smaller crafts completed weekly. Visit www.twocraftyschicks.com for more info.



MusiCanopy – offered for children in the 3s classes and PreK classes. 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 Thursday mornings from 8:15 to 8:45 and you can sign up with Ms. Kim at knwilliams72@yahoo.com.



KidzTennis – KidzTennis introduces children to the sport of tennis in a fun, safe, challenging and rewarding manner. Tennis fundamentals, social skills, sportsmanship and more are taught in this fun class. KidzTennis utilizes a USPTA certified curriculum. This class will be for potty trained children 2 years 9 months through 5 and is offered on Fridays from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. Email coach@kidztennis.com or call 404/569-8048 for more information.