Who swings through the trees, gets into mischief as fast as you please, found in cartoons and books galore, and is curious and curious some more? Why, go to the original source and welcome everyone’s favorite monkey, of course! On May 20, 2017, Curious George™: Let’s Get Curious! swings into MCM for the summer to bring this beloved character and his insatiable curiosity to life as children embark on fun, interactive math, science, and engineering-based adventures.

Based on the familiar characters in H.A. and Margret Rey’s classic stories published by Houghton Mifflin, and inspired by the animated television series on PBS KIDS, this immersive exhibit recreates the neighborhood where Curious George lives with his friend, The Man with the Yellow Hat. Visitors will explore George’s world as they operate wheels to help him climb a building, sort and weigh fruits and vegetables at the produce stand, climb the rocket from his space adventure, build a whirligig in the country, and visit the Museum within the Museum.

“Curious George’s endless curiosity and boundless love of discovery beautifully illustrate the innate sense of wonder that children find in our everyday world. At 76 years-old, Curious George has been inspiring generations with his adventures, and we hope will inspire our visitors this summer to ask, explore, and, perhaps, answer some questions of their own,” says Susan Garrard, MCM President and CEO.

Use wind power to move yard art like windmills and wind chimes.

Use pipes, ramps, & funnels to experiment with physics and engineering as you putt through mini golf.

Climb into the construction trailer and design a building.

MCM WELCOMES EVERYONE’S FAVORITE MONKEY!

MAY 20-SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Who swings through the trees, gets into mischief as fast as you please, found in cartoons and books galore, and is curious and curious some more? Why, go to the original source and welcome everyone’s favorite monkey, of course! On May 20, 2017, Curious George™: Let’s Get Curious! swings into MCM for the summer to bring this beloved character and his insatiable curiosity to life as children embark on fun, interactive math, science, and engineering-based adventures.

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Mississippi has a creative culture that is as rich in its heritage as it is diverse in its many forms of expression. Mississippi has produced award-winning actors, writers, musicians, poets, playwrights, dancers, singers, painters, designers, puppeteers, and craftsmen who have garnered such accolades as Grammy, Emmy, Pulitzer, Tony, and Oscar awards, the National Medal of Arts, and even a Nobel Prize in Literature to name a few. As such, Mississippians have contributed significantly to the arts in America.

At MCM, we believe that the arts provide a meaningful context for understanding our world, examining challenges in new ways, and discovering how things work. MCM strives to incorporate the arts within all activities offered at the museum to encourage integrative learning. Our programs are designed to connect children and their self-directed exploration and practice of the arts with a wide range of arts experiences and artists from around the state and beyond. Programs and exhibits provide opportunities for children to create and view art performances, as well as to participate in material explorations while investigating a variety of authentic art tools, techniques, and processes.

As the birthplace of the King of Rock and Roll, the Father of Country Music, a certain beloved green frog, and the Mississippi Delta Blues, Mississippi has been a cradle for creativity and artistic innovation. At MCM, we want to foster and celebrate this tradition. By giving children the opportunity to participate in these experiences firsthand, we hope to spark their imagination and inspire their curiosity and creativity for a lifetime.
How do you tell a story or create an original piece of art? The participating artists in MCM's Storytelling Festival and Visiting Artist program hope to answer these questions through hands-on engagement that gives children an opportunity to try out new skills along with the freedom to experiment and discover the endless possibilities of their own creativity and imagination.

On January 21, 2017, the Storytelling Festival brought together a diverse group of artists to delve into the multitude of ways that stories are created, shaped, interpreted, and told. Mississippi School of the Arts Theater Instructor Dr. Robert Brooks, explored improvisation techniques and movement scenarios. Sarah Campbell, photographer and author, shared photography and story writing methods. Althea Jamar, award-winning music educator, led an interactive reading of Jack and the Beanstalk using musical instruments to create characters. Directed by co-founder Erin Scheiwe Rockwell, Front Porch Dance performed a piece based on the Mary Poppins book that was interpreted, and told. Mississippi School of the Arts Porch Dance performed a piece based on the Mary Poppins book that was interpreted, and told. Mississippi School of the Arts.

“The illustrations you see in a storybook represent maybe only five percent of the work that actually takes place. It’s like the very, tiny tip of an iceberg, which you see floating above the water. But then, there is this whole mass, below the water—that fact—that you don’t see,” he says. “I want to illustrate for them—pun intended—the experimentation that goes into making art. A sketchbook is an artist’s laboratory. It’s your diary and place to visually explore your ideas and observations.”

Rockwell sees benefits both for the children and for artists. “When children participate in the arts, they learn confidence, focus, perseverance, and collaboration. The Mississippi Children’s Museum creates these opportunities for children by bringing them face-to-face with storytellers, painters, and musicians.”

“Visitors can now dive deeper into the arts at MCM with a new daily program, Making Masters. The session-oriented program utilizes small class sizes to give children the opportunity to learn more about different artistic principles. Making Masters gives us the opportunity to make connections with guests and to give each guest the attention they deserve,” says Emily Simmons, MCM’s Arts Educator. “We wanted to give children the one-on-one experience.”

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This weekday program has a different theme each week with session times listed outside of the Outside the Lines art room each day. These times change based on the needs and complexity of the project. “We get started all at once so we are on the same page,” Simmons says about the new session times. “She says that because this program is in the afternoon, the projects often target older children who visit after school. “It is a longer session so you have to pay attention longer,” she explains. “Some of the skills are a little bit more in depth than our morning activities.”

Making Masters can still be an all-ages program, however. “All of the activities we do in the art room can be made more difficult for a more advanced student or can be made easier for a less advanced student,” Simmons notes. In addition to the afternoon program, Simmons says there is a do-it-yourself style project each morning that focuses on family connections and easy-to-understand steps for younger guests. Both morning and afternoon projects typically relate to a shared theme.
Congratulations to the 2017 Magnolia Book Awards Winners

The Book With No Pictures

PRE-K & 2ND GRADE

Ferocious Puffin, A Mighty Brity
Class Pet by Erica S. Perl
Hey, That’s My Monster! by Amir Zadpoor

3RD & 4TH GRADE

Maya Angelou’s Story of Jesus by John Hendrix
All Rise for the Honorable Berry J. Cook by Lesléa Newman

5TH & 6TH GRADE

The Wild Balloon by Peter Brown
When Miwok Came to Town by Katrina Naranjo
The Rock Swing by Leonard Metsch

7TH & 8TH GRADE

The Princess and the Warrior
The Earl Wizard Smallbone by Delia Sherman
Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate
Marley & Me by John Grogan

9TH & 10TH GRADE

An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir
Every Falling Star: The True Story of a North Korean Boy’s Escape to Freedom by North Korea
Eunice: The True Story of How a Little Girl’s Gift Helped Save North Korea by Jonathan Auxter
Red’s Planet by Eddie Pittman
Headstrong: 12 Women Who Changed Science and the World by Rachel Swaby

11TH & 12TH GRADE

Pax by Ann Nesbit
Cloud and Wallfish by Lindsay Eager
The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge
Bayou Magic by Amanda Knoll
Hey That’s My Monster! by Jennifer Thermes

Awards are presented in four age categories: Pre-K through 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade through 5th Grade, 6th Grade through 8th Grade, and 9th through 12th Grade. Voting takes place each February and is overseen by a designated individual (teacher, librarian, bookstore manager) at participating sites in Mississippi. The awards are announced each April at the Fay & Kauger Children’s Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Magnolia Book Awards were established in 2010 to introduce Mississippi children to the best in current children’s literature. The Magnolia Book Award is a children’s choice award—an award decided by the children themselves. Students from across Mississippi, in Pre-kindergarten through 12th Grade, are invited to vote for their favorite book among those nominated in four age categories.

Magnolia Book Awards nominates works that have been published within two years of the nomination. The four age categories consist of Pre-K through 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade through 5th Grade, 6th Grade through 6th Grade, and 9th through 12th Grade. Voting takes place each February and is overseen by a designated individual (teacher, librarian, bookstore manager) at participating sites in Mississippi. The awards are announced each April at the Fay & Kauger Children’s Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Magnolia Book Awards educate teachers and librarians about children’s literature and help students to become confident in answering questions now. It is the foundation of all learning and if we can do something to make reading fun, it makes learning fun as well, and that is win-win for everyone,” says Venetta Ogilby, Magnolia Book Awards Executive Board Vice-President.

The Mississippi Children’s Museum partners the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Library Association, Mississippi Library Commission, and Divisions of the University of Southern Mississippi, including: The School of Library and Information Science, Fay & Kauger Children’s Book Festival, The School of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, and The deGrummond Children’s Literature Collection for the Magnolia Book Awards.

If you have questions about the Magnolia Book Awards, please contact Venetta Ogilby at ogilby@mcm.org or call 601-668-9215. For more information about the museum, visit www.mcm.org.

2018 NOMINATED BOOKS

Read each book in your grade category and vote for your favorite in February 2018!

PRE-K & 2ND GRADE

Ferocious Puffin, A Mighty Brity
Class Pet by Erica S. Perl
Hey, That’s My Monster! by Amir Zadpoor

3RD & 4TH GRADE

Maya Angelou’s Story of Jesus by John Hendrix
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Parent Quotes

“I love the interaction with the other kids. She was really shy before, but she’s more confident in answering questions now.” - Sharon Burton

“I would definitely do it again. It was not only something but it was good for us as well.” - Ronda Reed

“Once the program started, they liked to get into more books. Sometimes on the weekend, they choose the books you have given them. They love reading it, and then they talk about it.” - Geraldine Jennings

“Planting the Seeds to Read in

In January, MCM’s education team traveled to the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola, Mississippi, for its Planting the Seeds to Read family literacy program, which brings literacy activities to participating families for seven weeks. The program treats families to dinner, provides activities for the children that make learning fun, and offers workshops with techniques parents and caregivers can use at home with their children to encourage reading. Twenty-five families from the Sunflower County Consolidated School District (SCSD) were invited to join MCM staff members for the program, which is part of a larger project supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Patti Reiss, MCM’s Assistant Director of Programs, says the lessons offer a variety of learning experiences for participants, many of which include musical or dramatic expression, or allow children to learn by moving, talking, and listening. “This program has introduced its participants to new ways of learning,” she says. “We have allowed them to use their imagination to communicate things they have learned from the start of the program to now.”

Carolyn Williams, who attended the program with her two granddaughters, says that she can see the difference the program is making, both in their interest in reading, and in building social skills and making friends. “It’s really helping them. I get to take out the time to come and be here with them and be a part of this,” Williams says. “That’s my favorite thing. I see how they can come in and meet new people. On top of meeting them, they get to socialize with each other.”

This program has allowed MCM to reach children in the Sunflower County Consolidated School District, which might not have been possible without the joint partnership. Mallaka Polk-Lee, BBKM Executive Director, says that creating a three-way partnership allowed both museums to include SCSD in the project from the beginning. “The parents and school knew us. They knew if we do a program that it’s going to be a quality experience, and it is going to give them the benefit that we said that it’s going to give,” Polk-Lee says. “You can tell by the attendance that the school system had a true buy-in to be sure that the children were here and the parents understood the program and had the information. It’s been a win-win for all three organizations.”

This year, MCM also partnered with HOPE Enterprise Corporation/HOPE Federal Credit Union to offer lessons for both children and adults focused on financial literacy. Thad Fairley, HOPE Program Officer, explains that the company was created to offer financial assistance and access to financial institutions to areas that have limited resources. “It is essential for people to have knowledge of how to be financially stable. Part of our goal as a company is to empower people in our communities with financial stability. That is one of the reasons HOPE was created,” he says. “I hope we can continue to do this, and I believe it is truly making a difference in this community.”

Felicia Lyles, the VP Regional Branch Administrator for Hope Federal Credit Union, adds that this partnership also helps children learn the role of financial institutions early. “Being successful financially affects everything we do. The decisions we make now will affect us later in life,” she says. “If they are making good decisions now, we will continue to make good decisions when they go to college and start working as adults.”

Patti Reiss credits the strong partnership with BBKM for the success of Planting the Seeds to Read in Indianola, which is the first time MCM has tried to replicate an ongoing program outside of the Jackson area. “We could not have had as successful a program without the B.B. King Museum’s partnership, level of trust, level of cooperation, and attitude of volunteerism,” she concludes.

Parent Quotes

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“I would definitely do it again. It was not only something but it was good for us as well.” - Ronda Reed

“Once the program started, they liked to get into more books. Sometimes on the weekend, they choose the books you have given them. They love reading it, and then they talk about it.” - Geraldine Jennings

“I have seen an improvement in his wanting to read. I’ll pick up a book and say, We read this at the program, and now he wants to read it at home too.” - Ronda Reed
MCM SUMMER 2017 CALENDAR

Please note that these dates and events are subject to change. Visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org for an up-to-date schedule.

MAY

- **Saturday, 06**
  - Question It? Discover It! Allergies
  - Come & Go: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

- **Sunday, 07**
  - Visiting Artist Workshop
    - Rhianne Putnam: Story to Song
  - Come & Go: 1:30 - 5:30 pm

- **Friday, 19**
  - Members-Only Curious George Exhibit Preview Party
  - 5:30 - 7:30 pm

- **Saturday, 20**
  - Curious George™: Let’s Get Curious! exhibit opens
  - Come & Go: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

- **Saturday, 20**
  - Splash Pad Opens for Summer
  - Free use to the general public

- **Tuesday, 30**
  - Blue Star Museum: Military Discount
  - Free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families

JUNE

- **Thursday, 01**
  - Outreach: Fondren’s First Thursday
  - Come & Go: 4:00 - 7:00 pm

- **Saturday, 03**
  - Let’s Get Curious about STEM
  - Come & Go: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

- **Thursday, 22**
  - Pollinator’s Garden Opening with a butterfly release
  - 10:00 am

- **Saturday, 24**
  - Question It? Discover It! Genetics
  - Come & Go: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

- **Saturday, 24**
  - Magic Mondays: Open Every Monday In June & July!

JULY

- **Sunday, 02**
  - Visiting Artist Workshop
    - Mallory Palmertree: Marble Paper
  - Come & Go: 1:30 - 5:30 pm

- **Week of 11-14**
  - Educator’s Professional Development Week
  - Sign up for classes at mcm.org

- **Saturday, 15**
  - Let’s Get Curious about ART
  - Come & Go: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

- **Saturday, 15**
  - Neon Night
  - Adults-only fundraiser
  - 7:00 - 11:00 pm

- **Sunday, 16**
  - Lights, Camera, Imagination Auditions
  - Come & Go: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

AUG

- **Saturday, 05**
  - Question It? Discover It! Pediatrics
  - Come & Go: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

- **Saturday, 12**
  - Outreach: Bright Lights, Belhaven Nights
  - Come & Go: 3:00 - 5:00 pm

- **Saturday, 19**
  - Outreach: Mississippi Book Festival
  - Come & Go: 1:30 - 5:30 pm

- **Saturday, 26**
  - Let’s Get Curious about the color yellow
  - Come & Go: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

9.23.17
LONG LIVE WONDER
SYNERGIZED BY THE LEFLEUR MUSEUM DISTRICT

Check MCM’s social media pages in the morning to see what we are celebrating each day in 2017. Join us for a pop-up program using that day’s unique theme. #CelebrateEveryDay

Facebook: /MississippiChildrensMuseum
Twitter: @mschildsmuseum
Instagram: @mschildsmuseum
Pinterest: /mschildsmuseum
MCM Partners Annual Meeting

On Tuesday April 4th, a group of staff, supporters, and community members celebrated the work of the 2016-2017 MCM Partners. The MCM Partners are a vital part of the museum, providing volunteer and financial support throughout the year. As a non-profit organization, it is a priority for MCM to keep admission costs low so that every child in Mississippi has the opportunity to visit. In order to do that, MCM depends greatly on the generosity of our community. Without the involvement and enthusiasm of MCM Partners, the museum would not be able to offer the first-class experiences that it currently provides to the children and families of Mississippi.

To begin the celebration, 2016-2017 MCM Partners President, Janet Spain, welcomed guests to the museum. In her remarks, she reflected on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year. Guided by her theme for the year, “Be the reason a child can dream,” she and the MCM Partners board gave of their time and their treasure to ensure that all children who visit the museum have a wonderful experience. The MCM Partners Board of Directors awarded Spain with an original piece of art by MCM Art Educator, Emily Simms. This piece, a painting of the museum, was used as the cover image on the invitation for Tuesday night’s meeting.

Spain also discussed the success of this year’s three signature events. Ignite the Night, Neon Nights, and Fall Festival and celebrated the hard work of their committees. Thanks to the work of Amye Bell and Nicole Rinaldi, the third annual Neon Nights was another sizzling summer success as fun-loving and community-minded young professionals gathered at the museum to enjoy food trucks and games. Alicen Blanchard and her dedicated committee made the evening unforgettable. Through these three events, as well as membership dues and the Youth Ambassador Council’s raffle ticket sales, MCM Partners raised a total of $195,555.08—the largest amount in the organization’s history.

The Preston Myers Hays Award of Light

The Preston Myers Hays Award of Light is presented each year to an MCM Partner who embodies the spirit and light of the late Preston Myers Hays and embodies the qualities he held most dear. The recipient of this award is chosen by the MCM Partners Board of Directors. This year, the award was presented to MCM Partners President, Janet Spain, Carlene Scanlon, Susan Garrard, andincreasing the quality of life for Mississippis, says John Lewis, Gertrude C. Ford Foundation board member.

Preston Myers Hays Award of Light

The Preston Myers Hays Award of Light is presented each year to an MCM Partner who embodies the spirit and light of the late Preston Myers Hays and embodies the qualities that he held most dear. The recipient of this award is someone who works hard for MCM Partners and the museum. This year, the award was presented to MCM Partner Advisor and life-long Jackson native, Libba Wilkes. Wilkes selflessly gives her time, knowledge, and resources to the museum. On every project she takes on, she serves with a creative spirit and a can-do attitude that brings joy and drive to those around her.

IN THE HISTORY OF MCM PARTNERS

This year MCM Partners

The largest amount in the history of MCM Partners!

RAISED A TOTAL OF

$195,555.08

Naming of the Gertrude C. Ford Literacy Garden

The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation was honored during the MCM Partners annual meeting for its $500,000 commitment to MCM for the Literacy Garden. This gift is a continuation of the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation’s commitment to the Mississippi Children’s Museum. Literacy is an important part of our foundations overall vision for improving education in Mississippi and increasing the quality of life for Mississippians,” says John Lewis, Gertrude C. Ford Foundation board member.

The Gertrude C. Ford Literacy Garden, a 13,000 square foot outdoor gallery, which opened in summer 2014, is designed to encourage early language and reading skills development among children 0-8 years old. It combines whimsical, literary-inspired sculptures, innovative technology, and native plants, along with an edible garden, to pull children into the creative, limitless world of stories and imagination.

This space is intended not only to meet children’s need for outdoor play, but to create a collaborative learning laboratory where children and their caregivers encounter elements critical for language and literacy acquisition. Since its opening, this space has given MCM’s educational capacity by allowing the museum to expand existing programming to the outdoors as well as to pursue new programming opportunities.

In October 2014, MCM was awarded a significant honor through a competitive grant from the Institutes of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to finish the final phase of the garden’s development. The Literacy Garden was also named a 2014 Smithsonian Traveling Treasures by A.A. This spring, MCM was nominated as a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, which is presented annually by IMLS and is the United States highest honor for institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities.

“We are so grateful to the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation for their ongoing commitment to the Mississippi Children’s Museum, to literacy, and to providing innovative learning experiences for Mississippi’s children,” said Susan Garrard, MCM President & CEO. The Literacy Garden truly is one-of-a-kind. It was designed and developed by Mississippians, incorporating Mississippi artwork and native plant species, to create a place of wonder and learning for all Mississippi’s children.”

Because of the foundation’s original gift for the Gertrude C. Ford Traveling Exhibition Hall, we have been able to host some truly innovative, hands-on, traveling exhibits developed by children’s museum and science centers from across the country. Being able to bring them to Mississippi has tremendously enriched the learning experience we can provide. This summer, we are pleased to welcome Curious George® “Let’s Get Curious!” from the Minnesota Children’s Museum,” says Garrard.
When MCM installed its new Nissan Altima exhibit in December 2016, Pam Confer, the Director of Community and Public Relations for Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant, was one of the first visitors to take it for a spin.

“Our prized possession here at MCM is the Nissan Altima, which has been one of the favored exhibits since 2010. Our new replacement Altima this year is simply taken awesome to a new level,” Confer says. “From under the hood, to inside the car, to around the wheels, the 200,000 kids that visit the museum each year will have an even more incredible experience in STEM.”

In her role with Nissan, Confer manages the community outreach efforts for the plant, which includes a relationship with MCM. She says that she hopes interacting with the Altima exhibit will give children a look at technology in the automotive field.

“When I visit the museum, and see both children and their parents enjoying the car, I know that Nissan’s impact is far-reaching,” she says. “Nissan Canton is the second largest employer in the state with 6,400 employees that build 350,000 vehicles a year. Perhaps, one day, these same kids will find themselves working at the Nissan plant, which includes its relationship with MCM. She says that she hopes interacting with the Altima exhibit will give children a look at technology in the automotive field.

When Steckler first began working at MCM, she had an interest in creating design elements that could be seen in the museum’s various exhibits. She also enjoyed working with multiple departments to ensure that her designs were cohesive and visually appealing.

“I was excited to be part of the team that worked on creating these new exhibits,” Steckler says. “It was rewarding to see how our designs were being implemented in real-world settings.”

Today, Steckler still works at MCM, where she continues to create graphics that are used for campaigns, signs, newsletters, and more. Her work has been recognized by her peers and has earned her several awards for her creativity and design skills.

Now, as a member of the museum’s marketing department, Steckler works closely with multiple departments to ensure that her designs are consistent and effective.

“I enjoy working closely with the other departments at MCM to ensure that all of our marketing materials are cohesive and consistent,” Steckler says. “It is important to create a unified brand image that resonates with our visitors.”

Marion Steckler has been a part of the MCM family since March 2014 when her first task was to develop new graphics for the museum’s website. Since then, she has worked in many different roles at the museum, including development and education before she became the Design Manager for MCM’s marketing department. Working with multiple departments has given her a greater understanding of all aspects of the museum,” she says.

Now, as a member of the museum’s marketing team, her daily duties include creating many of MCM’s graphics that are used for campaigns, signs, newsletters, and more. You will recognize her work on MCM’s website, the monthly Play-By-Play, and on invitations and marketing materials for MCM Partners’ events. Steckler even designed the custom wrap for MCM’s outreach vehicle in 2016, which can be seen driving around the state.

She enjoys working as part of a team where everyone plays a role in creating the fun, fantastic final result. “It’s so exciting to be involved with something from the beginning design stage to the finished product. The experience is rewarding because of the positive reactions from visitors and staff,” she says.

MCM DONORS | GI DOCTORS

Did you know that when you blush and your face turns red, the lining of your stomach also turns red, so that the acid in your stomach is strong enough that it can eat through a piece of wool? These are just two of the fascinating facts that the doctors at GI Associates & Endoscopy Center recently shared with MCM’s little young children as a way to get them excited about the complex and critical body system.

“GI health includes everything from what we eat to bodily pains to bowel movements,” says Dr. Mary Allyson Lowry, GI Associates’ newest pediatric gastroenterologist. “Teaching children from a young age about the importance of healthy nutrition and healthy GI systems can affect them and improve their quality of life well into adulthood.”

The gastroenterologist trust must not be a topic that most people think about unless they are experiencing digestive issues. However, researchers keep discovering new and important connections between the gut and other areas of health. More and more, it really seems, “you are what you eat.”

GI Doctors control what their children know and eat when they are young. Lenny rates, “It is very important to introduce children to a wide variety of foods and nutrients from the start and encourage them to try new things even when they don’t think they will enjoy it. Also, water, water, water! We all need to drink more water and less of sweetened and caffeinated beverages.”

That is one reason why MCM is so grateful to GI Associates not only for their medical expertise but also for their ongoing support. As a founding donor, they sponsored one of MCM’s most popular exhibits, the Gastroclimber. While the concept of having eaten, digested, and eventually flushed out a toilet might turn the stomach of some, to our young visitors, getting a food’s-eye-view not only is informative, but also a learning experience that is serious fun!”

For the Hendersons, who have been members of the museum since 2013, being a part of the museum’s promotions has been a fun experience for the past several years. Before this year, both Olivia and Daniel were in LCI in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

“I normally make the kids rotate auditioning to give each one their own time to shine, but last year it was open so they both went for it and won a spot again. This is year three for us,” Tanya Henderson, their mother says. “The kids love seeing themselves in magazines and flyers pictures and the staff that works with Lights Camera are great.”

As the children have grown, Tanya says they have a routine when they visit the museum. “When we first got there, they were all excited and went to their favorite spots. We also all go outside to the Literacy Garden and enjoy cookies. Now, we look forward to this each year.”
QUARTERLY DONORS

Contribution to the Mississippi Children’s Museum from November 15, 2016 - March 15, 2017

- $25,000 - $49,999
  - Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company
  - The Riley Foundation
  - Southern Pipe Supply
  - $1,000,000+

- $5,000 - $9,999
  - Kroger Delta Marketing Area
  - Atmos Energy
  - $10,000 - $24,999
    - Hederman Brothers *
    - Emily and Chris McNeil *
    - Alicen and E.J. Blanchard *
    - $2500-$4999
      - Weyerhaeuser Foundation
      - Great Southern Events *
      - Fountain Family Foundation
      - Eaton Aerospace Group
      - $25,000 +
        - November 15, 2016 - March 15, 2017

- $1,000 - $4,999
  - Mrs. Deidre M. Bland
  - Mayor Percy Bland III and Kacey and Bo Bailey
  - New South Ford & Nissan
  - Merrill Lynch
  - Doctors Farheen and Asif Lala
  - Lindsey and Cody Aull
  - Sam Long and Trey Long
  - Farrah and Steve Kennedy
  - Steve Davis
  - Mindy and Joe Collins *
  - Anonymous
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MCM Chess Challenge Summer Camp
September 16 - Mississippi Children’s Museum’s Chess Challenge Summer Camp. In addition, through a partnership with the Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association, MCM will host two tournaments, an Unrated Beginners Chess Tournament on September 16 and the Grade Level Championships on October 14.

As anyone who has spent any time on MCM’s Wacky Pooh know, it is furnished with rocking chairs and checkered board that beg visitors to sit a spell and while away an afternoon over a friendly round of chess. For many, chess is a fun pastime; for others, it is an academic discipline. In fact, King explains. “Perhaps most importantly, chess demonstrates that skills can be developed, that development is possible, and that this is achieved through practice and study. I have seen firsthand how chess can improve students’ academic motivation and performance,” King concludes.

Chess also has important applications for mathematic, scientific, and leadership training. As given the abstract, spatial, problem-solving nature of chess, as a subject, it has natural connections to mathematics—lines in -
BANANA BITES
1. Cut a banana into 1/2 inch slices.
2. Top a cracker with a banana slice.
3. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with cinnamon.

DID YOU KNOW?
- The banana's combination of carbohydrates, simple sugars, and dietary fiber provides energy needed for physical activity.
- Banana plants are not trees; they are actually large herbs! In the wild, banana plants can grow up to 30 feet tall!
- Bananas are a nutritious snack rich in potassium. Potassium helps keep your brain and bones healthy and strong!