MCM WELCOMES DOC MCSTUFFINS!

VISIT DOC MCSTUFFINS AND HER FRIENDS AT MCM IN JACKSON, MS!

Doc McStuffins: The Exhibit immerses children and families in the Doc McStuffins universe of stories and characters. It features the McStuffins Toy Hospital environment and offers families an opportunity to explore the hospital, assume doctor play roles, and help solve problems, all while learning lessons about healthy habits, empathy, and nurturing care.

What will you learn helping Doc McStuffins?
As we approach the end of an unprecedented school year, our teams at both Mississippi Children’s Museum in Jackson and Meridian, are focused on providing healthy summer activities to prevent learning loss and address the anxiety many children are experiencing.

Typically, during the summer, a decline in reading skills and academic knowledge can happen; however, this year uncertainty coupled with other social and emotional impacts of the pandemic call for an even greater response for academic recovery. Research has shown that children who are mentally healthy are happier, more motivated to learn, and have greater academic success. MCM is dedicated with a sense of urgency to provide opportunities to promote learning, engage children’s imaginations, and encourage healthy minds and bodies.

This summer, a few examples of exciting new experiences focused on these objectives are:

• **Doc McStuffins: The Exhibit**, open May 22-Sept. 5, in Jackson.

• A new 25,000 square foot children’s garden, **My Fantastical Backyard**, open in Meridian.

• In June, a new makers and art space, **WonderBox**, will open in Jackson.

We hope you will visit both campuses this summer, not only to enjoy and participate in educational exhibits and programs focused on early literacy, science, arts, health, and outdoor garden experiences, but to create memories to last a childhood!

Warm regards,

*Susan Garrard*

President/CEO

Mississippi Children’s Museum

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In addition to the 40,000 square feet of indoor exhibits MCM offers, we also offer outdoor spaces to learn and play! Playing outside allows children to develop physically and emotionally, which is a fantastic way to keep your body and mind active during the summer months.

**The Splash Pad is Open for the Summer**

What better way to cool down on a hot summer day than at MCM’s splash pad? Open daily – weather permitting – from May 15th through September 5th. The Splash Pad is located on the C Spire Plaza in front of the museum. Make sure to bring a pair of dry clothes to enjoy the museum.

**Learn and Play in the Literacy Garden**

The Literacy Garden presented by Gertrude C. Ford gives children and caregivers a fun, outdoor space to explore nature and exhibits in a hands-on and carefree way. The garden includes whimsical, literary-inspired sculptures, innovative technology, and native plants, and an edible garden, which all work cohesively to draw children into the creative limitless world of stories and imagination.

**Learn About Nature in the Pollinator’s Playground**

MCM’s Pollinator’s Playground is a free, public space where children and adults can go to relax, play, and learn about the role of pollinators in our everyday life. Pollinators, like bees and butterflies, along with birds, bats, and other animals are vitally important, not only for maintaining the health of local ecosystems, but also for agriculture. Honeybees pollinate approximately 80% of the fruit, vegetables, and seed crops cultivated in the United States! The Pollinator’s Playground is sponsored by the Garden Club of Jackson and the MAPP Family Foundation.

**MCM’s Little Free Library™**

The Little Free Library™ is a non-profit organization that started in 2009 and was officially established by 2010. The goal of the Little Free Library™ is to make books accessible to “book deserts” in underserved communities. In the United States, more than 30 million adults are on a third-grade reading and writing level. When books are made accessible to communities, children are more likely to learn to love reading. The Mississippi Children’s Museum values literacy and strives to provide children with the tools they need to be successful. Programs such as ABC Come Play with Me, Read to Succeed, and Talk from the Start all promote literacy for the children of Mississippi. Come visit our Little Free Library™ and pick out your new favorite summer read!
HELP YOUR CHILD THRIVE: ENGAGE AND PLAY

Parents and families, you are your child’s first teacher! Research shows that a caring relationship with at least one adult is key in the first few years for the development of lifelong skills such as memory retention, self-control, and focus.

The more relaxed days of summer can be a great time to strengthen the relationship you have with your child and help them build these important skills, known as executive functioning skills. By giving your child time and attention and engaging in back and forth (“serve and return”) interactions, you can support your child’s development.

Much like a game of volleyball, you make “serves” to your child by talking, reading, or singing about the different sights and sounds around you. Even if your child is not able to talk yet, they may “return” these “serves” by smiling or clapping. These shared moments can happen anywhere and at any time.

Talking, reading, and singing with your child develops communication skills and helps them learn to make important connections with the world around them.

You can find tips on our parent page at mississippithrive.com or visit toosmall.org and talkwithmebaby.org for fun ways to spend time with your child.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling $14 million with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.
MISSISSIPPI THRIVE!

Supporting your child’s development does not require expensive toys. A game such as Simon Says sharpens executive functioning skills like following directions, focusing, and using working memory. See Vroom Tips™ below for ways to support your child’s physical, mental, and emotional health.

YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD’S DEVELOPMENT!

DANCE PARTY (AGES BIRTH - 12 MONTHS)

Your child may not be walking or talking yet, but with your help, they can definitely boogie. So, turn on some music and hold them as you dance around. When you sit down together, shake your arms to the music and see if they can do the same!

BRAINY BACKGROUND

Paying attention to sounds and movements is an early step in listening for sounds—a reading skill.

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT (AGES 2-4)

Tell your child to run when you say, ‘Green light!’ and stop when you say, ‘Red light!’ Once they can do it, encourage them to try the opposite: run when you say, ‘Red light!’ and stop when you say, ‘Green light!’ Try other colors and other actions (skipping, hopping). You can even change the rules and have them do the opposite.

BRAINY BACKGROUND

When your child plays this game, they’re holding an idea in their brain to remember the rules and what they’re supposed to do. Scientists call this working memory. They must also use self-control as they stop and go, or when you change the rules. These are important skills for school and life.

BRAINY BACKGROUND

When you and your child copy each other, they’re learning to focus and connect what they’re seeing and what they’re doing. Following along and learning to focus are important skills for learning new things.

FAST DANCE (AGES 2-3)

Let your child pick a fun, fast song to dance to. Ask them to make a dance move, and then copy what they do. Take turns going back and forth, copying each other’s dance moves.

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Time away from preschool or child care for any reason is a great opportunity for parents to use fun activities to continue supporting their children’s development and get them ready to return to routines. Any game or activity that involves following step-by-step instructions or listening can benefit future classroom time by building executive function skills.
On March 25th, elected officials, donors, museum board members, and staff joined together to cut the ribbon in celebration of the museum’s grand opening.

The Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian includes the nation’s first permanent ‘Goodnight Moon’ exhibit, a two-story brainiac climber, a library inspired by the Academy Award-winning short film and children’s book, ‘The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore’ by William Joyce, a whimsical, 25,000 square foot outdoor exhibit gallery, and so much more! Each gallery is designed with our institution’s educational initiatives at its core; STEAM, literacy and arts, health and nutrition, and Mississippi heritage. Visit mcmmeridian.org to learn more.

My Best Me inspires children and their caretakers to understand the importance of developing children in a healthy and holistic way.

You can’t miss the two-story Brainiac Climber where you’ll climb through the brain and learn how it controls all we do. The Brainiac Climber rests on top of Exploring My Emotions, which helps to explain the relationship between what we think, how we feel, and what we do.

Did you know, you can be a member to both MCM and MCM-Meridian by adding on a dual-membership for only $50! Visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org/join-donate/membership/ to learn more, or give us a call at 601.981.5469 (Jackson) or 601.512.0278 (Meridian).
WonderBox is MCM’s incredible, new makerspace! Our makerspace offers visitors the opportunity to design, create, and test their amazing creations. As an open-ended space, people of all ages can explore what it’s like to be a maker. WonderBox will be filled with various types of materials, tools, and machines to promote interaction with all aspects of STEAM.

**A Culture of Innovation**

**What Will You Build?**

Try your hand at building a flying machine. When you’re finished, launch it across the ceiling in WonderBox!

**Illumination Station: Gigantic Lite-Brite!**

Do you remember playing with lite-brites®? You can use the gigantic Illumination Station to add color and creativity to WonderBox.

**Join us on Saturday, June 19 for a Wonder Fair celebration and grand opening of WonderBox at MCM!**

Open a World of Wonder with MCM’s new WonderBox Kit! Get your children excited for MCM’s WonderBox exhibit by giving them their very own WonderBox kit. Each kit will include supplies and instructions for 4 STEAM-based activities that are sure to provide family fun for all.

Scan the QR code to visit our website to purchase yours today!

WonderBox is open at the Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian! In Meridian, visitors will use the design cycle to see their ideas come to life through their creations. The WonderBox displays in Meridian focus on East Mississippi innovations to inspire and spark creativity.

WonderBox at MCM-Meridian is Now Open!
Summer Fitness Journal

Take a look at the fitness journal below. Think about how many activities you can do that help you move your body! Do you like to play outside? What about going swimming? Or maybe you could go on daily walks with your family! Brainstorm different ways to exercise this summer, and keep a record of all the activities you do!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MORNING</th>
<th>DAYTIME</th>
<th>AFTERNOON</th>
<th>EVENING</th>
<th>TOTAL TIME</th>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can you help Doc McStuffins find her BFF, Lambie?
BUMBLE BEE BREATHING
A MINDFULNESS TECHNIQUE THAT YOU CAN PUT INTO PRACTICE IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

WHAT IS MINDFULNESS?
• Mindfulness is the state of being calm and aware of your environment.

WHY IS MINDFULNESS IMPORTANT?
• Being mindful enables us to remain calm during times of stress.

ACTIVITY
• What emotions and thoughts are going on in your head?
  o Write down some of these thoughts to be used later.
• Close your eyes and breathe in slowly and as you exhale, make a buzzing noise like a bumble bee.
  Try this for about one minute.
• After this exercise, talk together about what thoughts and emotions you are experiencing now.
  o Do you feel more calm?
  o Has your perspective changed on some of the topics discussed prior to the exercise?
• What happens in our bodies as we practiced this breathing technique.
  o Did you notice that your heart rate slowed?
  o Did you notice that your breathing slowed?
  o Your Cortisol levels, a stress linked chemical in the body, are decreased.
  o Is your mind more clear and focused now?

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HOME TIME OBSTACLE COURSE CHALLENGE
MAKE EXERCISING FUN AND ENTERTAINING BY TURNING YOUR HOUSE INTO AN OBSTACLE COURSE.

EXERCISE FACTS:
• Aerobic exercise, like brisk walking, running and playing sports are best for brain health.
• Being active can help you think, feel and sleep better.
• Children ages 6-17 should get at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day.
• Adults need at least 150 minutes per week of physical activity — that’s 30 minutes a day for 5 days.
• Exercise lowers the risk of heart disease, stroke, type II diabetes, high blood pressure, dementia and Alzheimer’s.

THE MCM OBSTACLE COURSE CHALLENGE
1. Designate a room in your house devoted to the obstacle course challenge.
2. Find different materials and objects around your house that you can use for the obstacle course.
3. Allow each member of your family to design one or two parts of the course.
   Examples:
   o Make circles out of towels/blankets on the floor. You have to hop through the circles.
   o Use canned foods to create zig zags. You have to run in zig zags.
   o Use a blanket to create a tunnel between your couch and coffee table. You have to crawl through this tunnel.
   o You can always write exercise challenges on pieces of paper throughout your course. Once you reach the paper, you have to complete the exercise. Perhaps it’s 10 jumping jacks.
4. Design and build the obstacle course.
5. Allow each member of your family to go through at least once. Be sure to time yourself to see who is the fastest!
6. This is a simple activity you can change up every day!
WEEKLY PROGRAMS

HABLA ESPANOL MONDAY 3:30 PM
Habla Espanol is a Spanish language learning course for little English speakers! Through play-based learning, children will be able to learn practical Spanish, as well as be inspired to continue additional language learning away from MCM. Use your new language skills at our summer visiting exhibit, Doc McStuffins: The Exhibit, which is presented in both English and Spanish!

SUPER STEAM TUESDAY 11:00 AM
Super STEAM Tuesday will allow children to observe experiments, trials, and tests that shed light on the incredible world of science!

FUN FRIDAY 3:30 PM
TGIF! Come celebrate every Friday at MCM with a fun activity. Activities include ice cream making, water balloons on the splash pad, puffy paint on the sidewalk, and more!

SUMMER CAMPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Camp Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1 - 4</td>
<td>Chess Challenge Camp (4 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7 - 11</td>
<td>Super STEAM Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21 - 25</td>
<td>NASA ASTRO Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 28 - July 2</td>
<td>Camp Backyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 6 - 9</td>
<td>Chess Challenge Camp (4 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12 - 16</td>
<td>Super STEAM Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19 - 23</td>
<td>NASA ASTRO Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26 - 30</td>
<td>Camp Backyard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our camp day runs from 7:30am to 5:00pm and is appropriate for children ages 5-10 years old. Camps are filling up fast! Check our website for availability.

These programs are for MCM in Jackson. Follow MCM-Meridian on social media for virtual programs.
**2021 MAGNOLIA BOOK AWARDS**

**WINNERS**

**Grades Pre-K - 2nd**

"This is MY Room!" Written by Jennifer Jacobson and illustrated by Alexandria Neonakis

**Grades 3rd - 5th**

"The Dog Who Lost His Bark" Written by Eoin Colfer and illustrated by P.J. Lynch

**Grades 6th - 8th**

"Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present" Written by Jamie Wilson and illustrated by Andrea Pippins

**Grades 9th - 12th**

"SHOUT" Written by Laurie Halse Anderson

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**A CHILDREN’S CHOICE AWARD FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

The Magnolia Book Awards (MBA) was created to introduce Mississippi children and teens to current literature and to instill a love of reading. Mississippi children from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade may participate in nominating and voting for books through their teacher, librarian, bookstore manager, or MCM. Each year students select their favorite books, awarding them the prestigious MBA designation!

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**MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE FEST**

9.18.21

SYNERGIZED BY THE

[Image of the LeFleur Museum District]

presented by cspire

The Mississippi Science Festival (MSF) is the LeFleur Museum District’s signature event presented by our partners at C Spire. MSF has been recognized by the Mississippi Tourism Association as “Small Festival of the Year” and a “Top 20 Event” by the Southeast Tourism Society! For this year’s MS Science Fest, we are excited to welcome American scientist and activist, Temple Grandin, to speak about her experience with science, agriculture, and autism awareness.

MSF aims to introduce new educational opportunities in STEM industries to Mississippi children in hopes of bringing about a brighter future for the residents and future workforce of our state. Every September, this event features three days full of science exploration and activities, such as: C3 Jr., an elementary coding challenge presented by Cspire, a Field Trip Friday for students from across the state, and an affordable, joint-ticketed day on Saturday featuring hands-on activities and exhibitors in STEM industries at all four museums. Mark your calendars for this year’s Mississippi Science Fest which will be held on September 16-18, 2021.
Through countless volunteer hours, sponsorships, and fundraising events, MCM Partners fulfill a valuable role for The Mississippi Children’s Museum. Despite the challenging year, MCM Partners were able to successfully raise $208,160 to support MCM’s mission of inspiring Mississippi’s children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential.

Welcome, MCM Partners
2021-2022 Leadership Team!

Swayze Pentecost | MCM Partners

Congratulations to this year’s Award of Light winner, Swayze Pentecost! We are so thankful for her diligent efforts to make MCM Partners and the Mississippi Children’s Museum so successful.

“Seeing all of the good that is produced by the museum for our community is something that I could not ignore. I had no idea the breadth and depth of which the museum provided invaluable opportunities/time/efforts/goods to children in our state, children that didn’t necessarily have the ways and means to enjoy the museum that I knew my future children would have. That was when it really sunk in. Then came Turner and I got to experience the museum at a whole new level - the excitement in her eyes when she visits the museum every time! How lucky we are to have such a fun and imaginative place for our children.” – Swayze Pentecost, 2021 Award of Light Winner

To kick off grand opening week, MCM-Meridian Partners presented a $30,000 gift to the museum! Through fundraisers like New Year’s Eve Party in a Box, Partners are able to support our mission and provide much needed annual funds for the museum.

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Front Row from left: Frances Croft, Barbara Byrd, Jia Scott, Crisler Boone, Wendy Polk, Alicen Blanchard, Amber Morrison

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Brandon Bridges | MCM-Meridian, Assistant Director of Museum Experiences

Brandon exudes the spirit of MCM-Meridian with his enthusiasm, friendly demeanor, and accommodating disposition that will set the tone for the rest of your visit at MCM-Meridian. Undoubtedly, his customer service skills will blow you away and make a lasting impression.

"[Brandon] greeted me at the door, talked to me like an old friend, and followed through with his promise of taking care of everything. I was greeted by not just one, but SEVERAL smiling faces who were all just as excited to be there as we were. After taking care of our membership, we were welcomed into some serious playtime with open arms." – Lucy Dormont, Museum Guest and Blogger

Karen Bush | MCM Board Member

MCM would like to gratefully recognize Karen Bush, who served on the MCM Board of Directors from 2012-2021. She has given countless hours to the museum and served as a strong leader, which has resonated with many other board members.

"Karen is a passionate leader and gives her all to any task she is given. She is determined to make a difference in all that she is involved with. One of the most memorable moments I recall from her leadership was a few years back at the Children’s Educational Fair, there was a tornado heading toward the Ag Museum. Karen stepped up, remained calm and helped make sure 2,500 children, teachers, and volunteers remained safe. I was privileged to be under Karen’s leadership and learn the true meaning of a servant heart." – Janet Spain, MCM Board Member

"Karen has supported MCM every step of the way, from before the Junior League even broke ground on the project. She is a terrific cheerleader, source of institutional memory, and wise counselor - the museum is so lucky to have her as a founding member of its booster club!" – Margaret Cupples, MCM Board Member

Priya Ray | President of the MCM President Leadership Circle

MCM congratulates Priya Ray, President of the MCM President Leadership Circle, on earning the highest academic achievement as Valedictorian in her 2021 graduating class. Ray has impressively served over 91 hours as a volunteer at MCM since 2019. She is a senior at Jackson Academy and plans on attending Georgetown University and majoring in Biology of Global Health.

"As part of the President’s Leadership Circle, it’s deeply gratifying to make a difference at the museum I cherished as a child, while I continue to relish my time there. From being a summer camp counselor to volunteering at the Meridian location to touring the Civil Rights Museum, the President’s Leadership Circle has been one of my favorite parts of high school and has allowed me to sharpen my leadership skills and immerse myself in more community service activities. I am going to miss the museum so much.” – Priya Ray, President of the MCM President Leadership Circle
Contributors to the Mississippi Children’s Museum from January 1 - April 30, 2021

If you wish to change your recognition, please contact us at donate@mcm.ms.

$50,000+
Maggi and Lee Lampton
Barksdale Reading Institute
State of Mississippi
Trustmark

$10,000 - $24,999
Anonymous
Ashley and Hu Meena
Atmos Energy Corporation
BankPlus
Bayer Fund
Community Trust Fund of the Community Foundation for Mississippi
Kroger Delta Marketing Area
Mississippi Baptist Health Foundation
Mississippi Department of Human Services
News 8 East
Nissan North America, Inc.
The Mapp Family Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999
Jane and Mike Jarvis
Georgia-Pacific
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

$2,500-$4,999
Beckham Jewelry *
Jones Walker LLP

$1,000-$2,499
Teresa and John Brooks
Ginny DeHart
Leigh and Andrew Grady
Mary and Mack Heidelberg
Kroger Delta Marketing Area
Mississippi Baptist Health Foundation
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Newk’s Eatery
State of Mississippi
Trustmark

$500-$999
Haley Adams
Sarah and John Adams
Barbara Austin
Alison and EJ Blanchard
Crivel and Doug Boone
Tori and Andy Broadhead
Katie and Shawn Browning
Britt and Byron Burkhalter
Melanie and James Burrow
Mary Preston and John Dubberly
Anne and Mike Dubiske
Oletha Fitzgerald
Lisa and John Fletcher
Bettye and James Graves
Martha Grubbs
Rachel and Claude Harbanger
Elen and Thomas Montez
Paula Kemp
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MCM - MERIDIAN DONORS

The “Inspiring Minds. Creating Community. Innovating Futures.” Capital Campaign united over 700 donors in the singular mission to bring the transformational resources of the Mississippi Children’s Museum to East Mississippi. Raising over $17,000,000, these champions were able to bring to fruition this dream—the Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian—the first satellite campus of MCM. Leading the charge in this quest were fifty founding donors giving over $50,000; these donors are recognized below. For the full list of champions to this campaign, you may access our website via the QR code below.

The Phil Hardin Foundation
The Riley Foundation
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City of Meridian
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation
Hall Timberlands
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The Paul & Sherry Broadhead Foundation
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The Montgomery Institute
Woodall Electric

MCM - MERIDIAN RESERVE FUND - PLAYING FOR KEEPS

In our first month of operations, MCM-Meridian has already served over 8,000 children and families from 17 states! It has been a confirmation of the importance of this resource for our community. To ensure that we can continue to meet this need for generations to come, we are launching a campaign to establish our ‘Playing for Keeps’ reserve fund. This fund will be critical to maintaining the first-class exhibits which will be well loved and well used by over 51,500 visitors annually. We are committed to serving the children and families of East Mississippi...we are playing for keeps!

HELP US RAISE $1,000,000 BY OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY!
MCM SUMMER CALENDAR

Please note that these dates and events take place in Jackson, MS. Dates and events are subject to change. Visit mschildrensmuseum.org for an up-to-date schedule. Visit mcmmeridian.org for MCM - Meridian events.

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<td>3 &amp; 17 July Visiting Artist Rebecca Wilkinson</td>
<td>6 Back to School Bash</td>
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Doctor’s Day

May 5

Doc McStuffins Opens

July 10

WonderBox Grand Opening

July 17

MCM & MCM – Meridian will be open on Mondays from July 5-Aug. 2!

MCM is a signature project of the Junior League of Jackson. MCM-Meridian’s signature sponsors are The Riley Foundation and The Phi Hardin Foundation. This project is partially funded through a grant by Vset Jackson.