

THE MCM PLAYBOOK

SUMMER 2021 • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 3

WONDERBOX

MCM AT HOME

SUMMER PROGRAMS















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.





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- 3 Museum Experiences
- 4-5 Mississippi Thrive
- 6 MCM Meridian
- 7 WonderBox
- 8-9 MCM at Home
- 10 Summer Programs & Summer Camps
- 11 MBA & MS Science Fest
- 12 Partners
- 13 Faces of MCM
- 14-15 Donors
- 16 Summer Calendar

The MCM Playbook Summer 2021 Volume 6 Issue 3

Published By: Mississippi Children's Museum

Editor: Angela Mitchell

Contributors: Tracy Pitts, Kate Perry, Clara Williams,
Rebecca Parker, MCM & MCM Meridian Staff
Graphic Designers/Photographers: Lori Nesbitt
& Haleigh Brown

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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 educationa exhibits and programs focused on early literacy, science, arts, health, and outdoor garder experiences, but to create memories to last a childhood!

Warm regards,



Susan Garrard
Mississippi Children's Museum
President/CEO

MUSEUM EXPERIENCES AT MCM IN JACKSON

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.

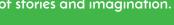
Enjoy MCM's Outdoor **Spaces This Summer**

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.



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



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!













MISSISSIPPI THRIVE!

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 <u>mississippithrive.com</u> or visit <u>toosmall.org</u> and <u>talkwithmebaby.org</u> 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.





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.



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.

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.





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.



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MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - MERIDIAN



NOW OPEN!





MY BEST ME

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.



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 FANTASTICAL BACKYARD



My Fantastical Backyard is a 25,000 square foot garden designed to inspire children to unleash their imagination and experience the physical benefits of playing outdoors. Explore the tunnels and trellises of the Wandering Woods, stop and smell the flowers in our Enchanted Garden, build a sandcastle at the Secret Seashore, splash upon the Wily Waters stream, or relax on the Lazy Lawn!

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.



What Will You Build?

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



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.

WonderBox at MCM-Meridian is Now Open!



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.



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!

	MORNING	DAYTIME	AFTERNOON	EVENING	TOTAL TIME
SUNDAY					
MONDAY					
TUESDAY					
WEDNESDAY >					
THURSDAY					
FRIDAY					
SATURDAY					

Can you help Doc McStuffins find her BFF, Lambie?





M₃ C₃ M₃ A₁ T₁ H₄ O₁ M₃ E₁

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.

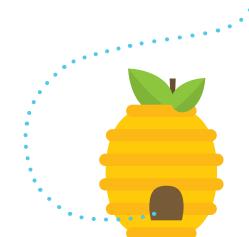
WHY IS MINDFULNESS IMPORTANT?

• 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?





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!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MCM IN JACKSON

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Monday • 11:00 am Food Lab

Sponsored by Sysco of Jackson

Tuesday • 3:30 pm Tinker with Tuesday Sponsored by Georgia-Pacific

Wednesday • 10:00am ABC Come Play With Me Sponsored by International Paper

Wednesday • 3:30 pm Fit for Fun

Sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center

Thursday • 11:00 am Mindful Mornings

Thursday @ 3:30 pm Fueled for Adventure Sponsored by St. Dominic Hospital

Check out our MCM at Home page on our website for monthly Question It? Discover It! virtual programming.



SUMMER **PROGRAMS**

HABLA ESPANOL MONDAY 3:30 PM

Habla Espanol is a Spanish language learning course for little English speakers! Through playbased 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!

MCM

SUMMER CAMPS

June 1 - 4 Chess Challenge Camp (4 days)

Super STEAM Camp June 7 - 11

June 21 - 25 NASA ASTRO Camp

June 28 - July 2 Camp Backyard

Chess Challenge Camp (4 days)

July 12 - 16 Super STEAM Camp

July 19 - 23 NASA ASTRO Camp

July 26 - 30 Camp Backyard

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





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

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!

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



9.18.21

SYNERGIZED BY THE



presented by



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.





MCM PARTNERS

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!



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

Back row from left: Maddie Saxton, Ross Weems, Carter Hood, Mary Preston Dubberly, Walton Lane, Ben Lane, Christy Malatesta, Alex Cooper, Carmen Gross

Not pictured: Lori Quarles, Joyce Marion, Hailey Allin, Jack Allin, Dana Herring, Elizabeth Boone, Russell Morrison, Kelly Weems, Kim Porter, Janet Spain, Amanda Overby, Anne Dulske, Amberly Collins, Lindsey Armstrong, Carter Milner, Elizabeth Mehrle, Amanda Puckett



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

MCM-MERIDIAN PARTNERS



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.

SAVE THE DATE



NEON NIGHT

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021 8:00 pm - 12:00 am



DISCOVERY NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 2021

MCM Partners events to be held in Jackson, MS.



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

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





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

MCM STATEWIDE DONORS

THANK YOU DONORS!

Contributors to the Mississippi Children's Museum from January 1 - April 30, 2021

* denotes an in-kind donation

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

\$25,000+ Maggi and Lee Lampton Barksdale Reading Institute State of Mississippi Trustmark

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Wier Boerner Allin Architecture *

\$250-\$499

Blithe and Vine *

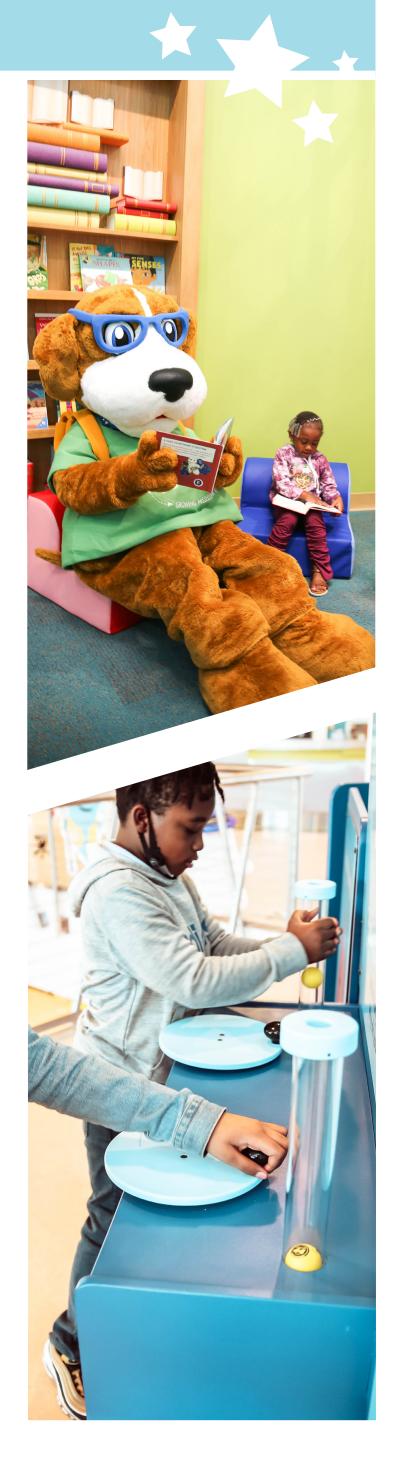
The Face and Body Center *

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In Memory of Lori Newcomb
Haley Adams
Alicen and EJ Blanchard
Leanne and Andy Brown
Mary Preston and John Dubberly
Paula Kemp
Deanna Kieffer
Holly and Alan Lange
Lyn and David McMillin
Amanda and Scott Overby
Kim and Trey Porter
Lynzy Presley
Cathy and Steve Roberts
Janet and Charlie Spain

In Memory of Linda Smith Mary E. Stewart



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

State of Mississippi

City of Meridian

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi

Foundation

Hall Timberlands

Sissie and Fred Wile

Castle

Southern Pipe and Supply

The Paul & Sherry Broadhead Foundation

Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors

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Anderson Regional Health Systems

The Junior Auxiliary of Meridian

Lauderdale County Tourism

The Mississippi Power Foundation

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M F M B II

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In Memory of Marisa Morgan by her Family

Heather and Nathan Myatt

Sandy and Terrell Temple

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The Chisholm Foundation

The Montgomery Institute

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Scan this QR Code to see our full donor list!





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 comparign to establish our "Ploying for Keeps" reserve fund. This fund will be critical to maintaining the first-class exhibits which will be well level 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.





Splash Pad Opens



Members Preview Doc McStuffins



Doc McStuffins Opens



Doctor's Day



18



19







Doctor's Day



Neon Night Adults only fundraising event



3 & **17**

July Visiting Artisit Rebecca Wilkinson



July 5-Aug. 2!









14 &



MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE FEST **SEPTEMBER 16-18**

















Mississippi Children's Museum • 2145 Museum Boulevard Jackson, MS 39202 Phone: 601.981.5469 | Fax: 601.709.2603 | Email: info@mcm.ms

Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian • 403 22nd Avenue South, Meridian MS 39301 Phone: 601-512-0278 | Email: meridian@mcm.ms