



THE MCM PLAYBOOK

SPRING 2022 • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 1

ROCKY'S HOUSE
.....
MERIDIAN'S
FIRST BIRTHDAY
.....
THE LIFT

READ HERE
READ THERE
READ EVERYWHERE

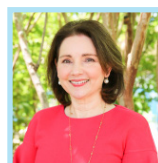


CELEBRATE READING!

The Mississippi Children's Museum is passionate and committed to literacy - one of our primary educational initiatives. We firmly believe that learning to read is fundamental to a child's educational development and because of this, MCM has hosted [Dr. Seuss' Silly Birthday Celebration](#) every year since 2012! Since 1998, Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2nd, has been a part of a national initiative called, [Read Across America Week](#). This is a time that has been set to shed light on the importance of reading, to celebrate children's literature, and to get everyone excited about engaging with their favorite book. In our commitment to helping improve literacy skills in Mississippi's children and adults, MCM offers place-based experiences that incorporate language concepts within our galleries, innovative programs that focus both on the mechanics of

reading and the enjoyment of it, resources provided to Mississippi families, schools, and teachers, and campaigns like [Talk from the Start](#), a partnership between MCM and The Barksdale Reading Institute, which encourages adults and caregivers to talk to and with children from birth in order to boost their language development and ultimately aid them in becoming strong readers.

Gratefully,



Susan Garrard

Susan Garrard,
Mississippi Children's Museum President/CEO

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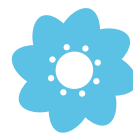
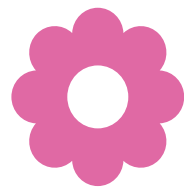


MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 12870
JACKSON 39236



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The MCM Playbook
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MISSION SPOTLIGHT: MCM - JACKSON HOSTS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES



FAMILY STEAM NIGHT

We are excited to share that thanks to generous donations from Regions, The Henry and Martha Hederman Charitable Foundation, Wells Fargo, CenterPoint Entergy, and a supportive MCM Partners group, MCM is providing Family STEAM Nights for our Rocket Club afterschool students and their families. These students are a part of the Stewpot Community Services Afterschool Program and come every Wednesday afternoon to engage in STEAM education. Four times throughout the school year, their families are invited to MCM to engage in a fun, hands-on approach to STEAM. MCM recognizes how important it has become for children to be skilled and comfortable in these areas to ensure their academic and career success. Each night we meet, the families are served dinner by our amazing MCM Partners and given a lesson and hands-on STEAM activity to do as a family. Our hope and goal for this program is that not only will the children gain new knowledge and skills, but that adults and caregivers will also learn something new and are connected to beneficial resources for the entire family.

PLAY. EAT. LEARN.

Keeping in line with our commitment to children and families, MCM has partnered with the Junior League of Jackson and UMMC's Center for the Advancement of Youth to provide the *Play. Eat. Learn.* Speaking Series. This educational learning series is geared toward helping parents and caregivers understand the complex mind of a child. This program presents a wonderful opportunity for the community to learn from experts in the field about the pressing issues and needs that children and families face. This series covers topics such as "Shedding Light on Anxiety in Children," "Supporting Healthy Sleeping Habits in Young Children," and "Understanding Autism: Symptoms, Assessments, and Intervention Options." This is a free event with dinner provided while it lasts. The remaining date for this year is April 22nd from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at MCM-Jackson.



ROCKY AND FRIENDS, COMING TO A BACKYARD NEAR YOU!

In early 2022, the beloved mascot and literacy advocate, **Rocky the Reader**, will begin touring the state of Mississippi in a brand-new traveling exhibit called **Rocky's House**. Rocky's House, an extension of the **Talk From the Start** advocacy campaign, is designed to raise awareness that talking to and with children from birth is essential to literary success.

Rocky's House will introduce caregivers and children to a cast of characters representing the diverse population of Mississippi. These characters, known as Rocky's friends, as well as Rocky himself, will guide guests through three primary methods of language and literacy development – **playing, talking, and reading**. Not only will visitors have an opportunity to learn about these methods, but they will also have a chance to play them into practice!

The centerpiece of the Rocky's House traveling exhibit will be **Rocky's home**, a place both familiar to our own homes, yet distinctly canine and colorful. Visitors can read a book, ask questions, and put their own stories into motion through puppets. Step out the backdoor of Rocky's home and you will find yourself in **Rocky's big backyard**, filled with books small enough to read in your hands and large enough to literally step into their stories.

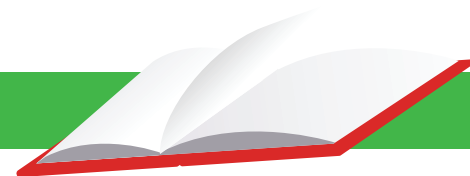
The three featured books in Rocky's big backyard are *Play with Me*, *Talk with Me*, and *Read with Me*. Each book is designed to foster the form of language and literacy development mentioned in its title. In ***Play with Me***, guests can join Rocky's friends, Cody and Mateo, as they practice one of the most fun methods of talking from the start – playing pretend! With a set of costumes and boundless imagination, caregivers and children can live out their stories, real and imagined, with prompts encouraging dialogue.

Within the other two larger-than-life books, guests can experience conversation and literacy games exclusive to the Rocky's House traveling exhibit. In ***Talk with Me***, Mei and Ella welcome visitors to play with blocks, images, and American Sign Language to engage with the world in new ways. In ***Read with Me***, Rocky's best friend, Kareem, will invite guests to cast a line and catch fish, which will ask engaging questions about stories they have read.

Each of these experiences will be filled with practical tips and wisdom, which caregivers can easily apply at home to give children in all stages of development the support needed for **literary success**. Talk from the Start, a partnership between the Mississippi Children's Museum and the Barksdale Reading Institute, and funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, will be a tremendous step forward in empowering Mississippians to talk to and with their children to promote and strengthen literary success in our state for generations to come.



EXHIBITS



VISIT THESE EXHIBITS IN JACKSON!

WILD ABOUT READING

The Wild about Reading gallery exposes visitors to the joy of words and creative expression; it serves as the nucleus of the literacy theme that is emphasized throughout the museum. This area provides fun, interactive activities that explore the basics of reading (letters, sounds, parts of speech, and reading practice), while celebrating the wonder of literature and the active nature of a child's involvement in the process of reading. Features of this gallery include the Eudora Welty Porch, *Between the Lions* (an exhibit based on the PBS Kids television show), and a one-of-a-kind giant Scrabble® board! Our goal is to make the practice of reading a compelling tool for exploration and discovery in all the museum's work. We strive to help children become readers, writers, and tellers of their own stories.



THE LITERACY GARDEN

Inspired by the poem, "The Enchanted Land of Story" by Sherry Norfolk, The Literacy Garden celebrates and explores the natural world as it is featured in children's literature. This gallery specifically addresses the development of language and reading skills among children ages 0-8 through active play, whimsical and literary-inspired sculptures, innovative technology, and native plants along with an edible garden. The Literacy Garden is intended to meet children's need for outdoor play and to create a space where they and their caregivers can become collaborative learners by exposing them to elements which are critical for language and literacy acquisition.



VISIT THESE EXHIBITS IN MERIDIAN!

GOODNIGHT MOON

MCM-Meridian is proud to have the nation's first permanent *Goodnight Moon* exhibit. Based on the highly acclaimed *Goodnight Moon* children's book written by Margaret Wise Brown, this exhibit features many familiar scenes from the book. Housed in the My Best Me gallery, this experience guides children through the steps to establish healthy bedtime routines, from bath time to storytime and reinforces the importance of a good night's rest. Guests can enjoy a storytime in this magical space every weekday, Tuesday-Friday at 10:00 a.m.



THE FANTASTIC FLYING BOOKS LIBRARY

The Fantastic Flying Books library inspires children to bring their own stories to life through art and literature in a setting inspired by the Academy Award-winning short film and children's book, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* by William Joyce. In addition to checking out one of your favorite books and reading it in our reading nook, you may dress as a character or enjoy some interactive games. Guests can also view the world of Mr. Morris Lessmore in a miniature replica of the scene created by Eagan Tilghman.



F₄A₁C₃E₁S₁

OF MCM



EAGAN TILGHMAN

On display in MCM-Meridian's My Storybook Factory is a replica set of miniatures used in William Joyce's animated short film, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*. The magical scene of miniatures was created by local Meridian artist Eagan Tilghman, who got his professional start on NBC's *Making It* series in 2019 at the age of 19. The display includes a small version of Mr. Lessmore's library, including a desk, a spiral staircase, a piano, and flying books!

"One of my favorite parts about creating this set was spending the day with Bill and getting to ask him all sorts of questions," said Tilghman. "He created all of these amazing stories and it really inspired me to continue to create my own and maybe one day I'll have my own books or short films out there for other people to enjoy."

Nearly a year after meeting Joyce, Tilghman continues to pursue his dream and accepted an invitation to create movie props in Hollywood, California. He also just illustrated his first children's book, *Elf E. Ramone*.

SARAH FRANCES HARDY

With a juris doctorate cum laude from the University of Mississippi School of Law, a Bachelor of Arts in fine art from Davidson College, and subsequent studies at Parsons School of Design in New York and Paris, Sarah Frances Hardy took an early retirement from practicing law to paint and write full time.

Hardy's paintings are characterized by vivid colors and expressive brushstrokes. She has exhibited her work in galleries throughout the Southeast, as well as at a gallery in SoHo, New York. Most recently, Hardy has redirected her creative juices towards writing and illustrating books for children. Her published works include *PUZZLED BY PINK* (Viking Children's Books), *PAINT ME!*, and *DRESS ME!* (Sky Pony Press).

"I believe that if you can connect a child with the perfect book, the one that child relates to in a personal way, you will create a life-long reader...and life-long readers are life-long thinkers, learners, and doers," said Hardy.

Sarah Frances Hardy's books and illustrations are displayed in MCM-Jackson's WonderBox exhibit. Her work shows the unique collaboration between literacy, art, and STEAM.

"I'm incredibly honored to be included in MCM's WonderBox exhibit with other creative Mississippians. I hope my artwork and books will inspire lots of creative explosions in the minds of children who visit," said Hardy.



EUDORA WELTY HOUSE

The Eudora Welty House played a special role in this year's Journey to the North Pole holiday exhibit in Jackson. MCM transformed the Eudora Welty Porch into a cozy reading nook inspired by Eudora Welty's home and library. An Education Specialist from the Eudora Welty House hosted a storytime called "Eudora's Yuletide Stories" weekly during the holidays.

Building on their mission to encourage the love of reading and literature and inspire the creative endeavors of future artists and writers, the Eudora Welty House & Garden has continued their partnership with MCM to offer a monthly program, Storytime with the Welty House, the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. An Education Specialist from the Eudora Welty House, Jennifer Rose will read two books picked from the Jackson-Hinds Public Library System. These books will tell tales of awesome adventures, colorful characters, and rhyming rhetoric.

"It had been startling and disappointing to me to find out that story books had been written by people, that books were not natural wonders, coming up of themselves like grass."

-Eudora Welty, *One Writer's Beginnings*

THE MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM-MERIDIAN CELEBRATES ITS FIRST BIRTHDAY ON MARCH 26TH

IT HAS BEEN A MAGICAL YEAR OF FIRSTS!

MARCH

OUR FIRST DAY...

We welcomed **615** children and families through the door, and in nine short months we've seen over **57,000** guests!

JUNE

OUR FIRST SUMMER...

We met travelers from **40** different states and earned the Mississippi Tourism Association's highest honor of Travel Attraction of the Year!

SEPTEMBER

OUR FIRST SCIENCE SATURDAY...

Partnering with the statewide Mississippi Science Festival, we hosted our first Science Saturday event with 8 local industries joining us to teach children about 21st century work skills from polymers to DNA chains, to robots, and more!

DECEMBER

OUR FIRST MEMBERS-ONLY EVENT...

To light our 18 foot Christmas tree and to kick off the holiday season, we welcomed over **700** members to an exclusive Peppermint and PJs after-hours event. It was hands down the best Christmas party in town!



As with each birthday, the greatest joy is celebrating with friends and family, and we are grateful for the overwhelming community of friends and family that have been with us every step of the way!

MARCH

OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY...

Jude celebrated her **8th** birthday at the museum and since then, we have celebrated with **155** boys and girls! We even hosted the most magical and elegant 70th birthday bash ever thrown.

JULY

OUR FIRST FIELD TRIP...

30 children from Highland Baptist became our first field trip group and since then, we have had **3,421** field trip visitors from **70** schools and institutions.

OCTOBER

OUR FIRST HALLOWEEN...

Maggie the Steel Magnolia Robot donned her first Halloween costume for our inaugural Boolseum event with over **1,100** visitors joining us for exploding pumpkins and more spooktacular activities.

DECEMBER

OUR FIRST ADULT-ONLY FUNDRAISING EVENT...

To herald in the New Year, MCM-Meridian Partners hosted our first Midnight at the Museum New Year's Eve event raising over **\$150,000** to help underwrite the mission and the vision of the museum. What an amazing year!

The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian Receives 2021 Governor's Award for Travel Attraction of the Year!

MCM-Meridian opened a state-of-the-art facility safely to the public on March 27, 2021, amid a worldwide pandemic. Since its opening, the museum's hands-on, inquiry-based exhibits, both indoors and out, have inspired over 57,000 children and families from 40 states and exposed them to the rich culture of East Mississippi.

The museum is not only a tourism attraction itself, but it acts as a springboard to introduce children and families to the many tourist attractions in the region, including the Mississippi State University Riley Center, Jimmie Rodgers, Union Station, Dunn's Falls, Bonita Lakes, Key Field, and Meridian Naval Air Base. MCM-Meridian is honored to receive this award and looks forward to growing tourism in Meridian with the help of neighboring attractions and community support.

**2021
TRAVEL
ATTRACTION
OF THE
YEAR**

M★C★M P★A★R★T★N★E★R★S

Since the Mississippi Children's Museum opened in 2010, MCM Partners has served as a steadfast support system to MCM-Jackson and MCM-Meridian. Through sponsorships, fundraisers, and volunteer hours, Partners helps MCM succeed in carrying out their vision of inspiring Mississippi's children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential.

Whether you are a young professional interested in helping throw the party of the summer, Neon Night in Jackson, or you are seeking a more hands-on approach by volunteering with our Stewpot Afterschool Program in Jackson or Happy Healthy Families in Meridian, there is an impactful project to suit everyone's interests. By joining MCM and MCM-Meridian Partners, you are playing a vital role in making our museum and the educational enrichment we provide accessible to all children.



Crisler Boone,
MCM Partners
President



Kim Knight,
MCM-Meridian Partners
Vice President

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
LEADERSHIP!



MCM-Jackson extends a sincere thank you to the event committee for Ignite the Night 2022 for organizing one of the most successful fundraising events in MCM's history!



SAVE THE DATE
JULY 16, 2022
MCM-JACKSON



Guests donned their magical masquerade masks to ring in the New Year at MCM-Meridian Partners' inaugural signature fundraiser, Midnight at the Museum. Thanks to the creative vision and hard work of our Midnight at the Museum Committee, this event was a huge success, raising over \$150,000 to underwrite the mission and vision of MCM-Meridian!





FOOT TRAIL

Materials:

- Dr. Seuss's *The Foot Book*
- Different colors of construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers

Read *The Foot Book*.

Cut out an even number of footprints.

Label each pair with opposite words from the book:

- Wet/dry
- Left/right
- Day/night
- High/low
- Front/back
- Slow/fast
- Small/big
- And any others you want to include!

Split the pairs so you have two stacks of opposite words. Spread one pile out to create a trail. Keep the other pile near the trail.

Have your child start at the beginning of the trail. For each footprint they step on, have them find the opposite word from the pile and put it next to the word on the trail. Can they match them all?

Trace this outline or
your own shoe to
make footprints!

ABC FISHING

Materials:

- Dr. Seuss's *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*
- Two colors of construction paper
- Scissors
- Marker

Read *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*.

Cut the same number of fish out of each color construction paper. Use the marker to write sets of letters. Put uppercase letters on one color, and lowercase letters on the other color. You can choose to represent as many letters as you want. The more letters you add, the longer the game will last.

Lay the fish out upside down in rows.

Players will take turns turning over two fish (one of each color) and trying to match the uppercase and lowercase letters. If you get a match, keep the pair and take another turn. If you do not get a match, the next player takes a turn.

Trace this outline or create your own
design to make your fish!

M₃ C₃ M₃ A₁ T₁ H₄ O₁ M₃ E₁

ROCKY'S POPSICLE PUPPETS

Materials:

- Scissors
- Paper
- Pencil
- Popsicle stick
- Glue

Cut out the shapes of Mei and Cody.

Glue the shapes to the popsicle stick and let it dry.

While you wait for the glue to dry, write a story about Mei and Cody. Try including yourself and a friend or family member in the story!

Together with your friends or family, use the popsicle puppets to perform your story.

Share your story with MCM on Facebook or Instagram!

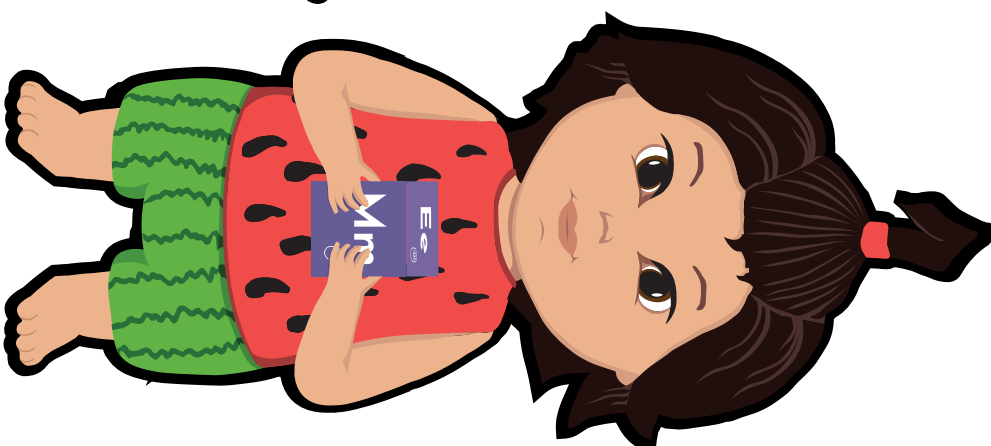
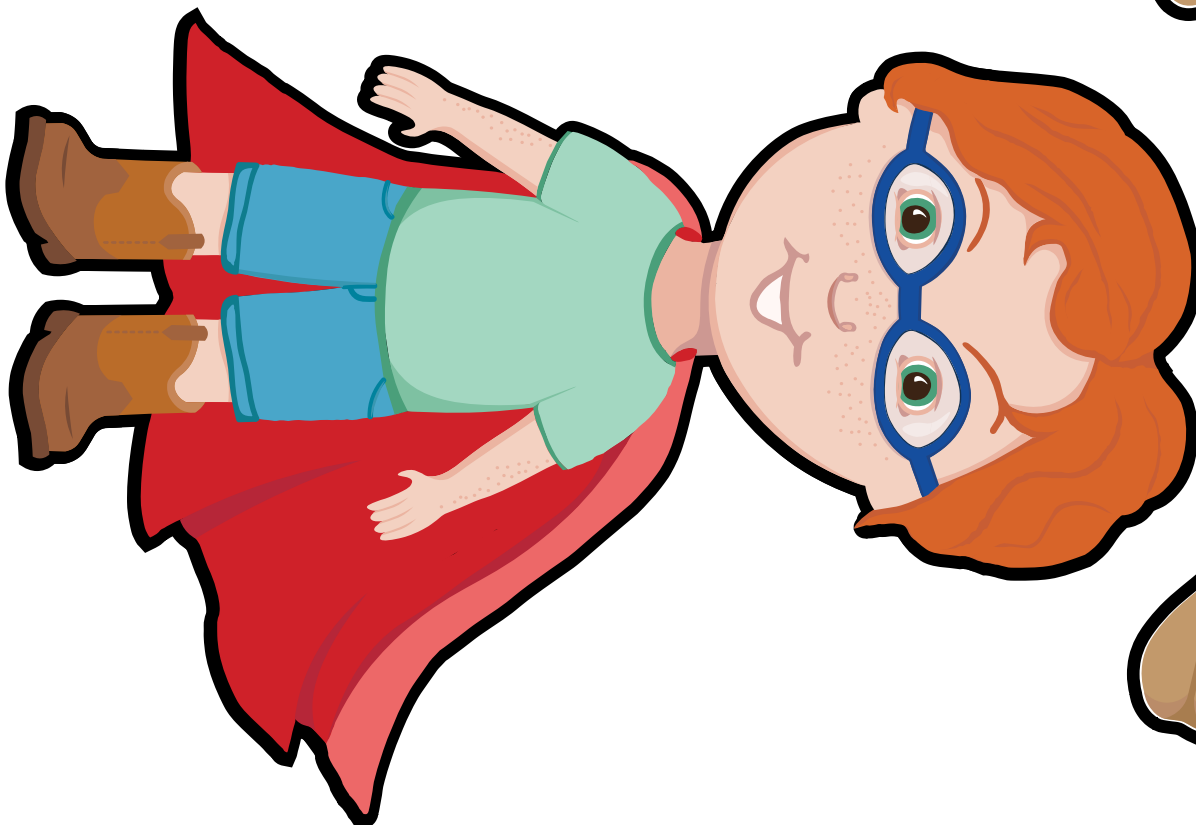
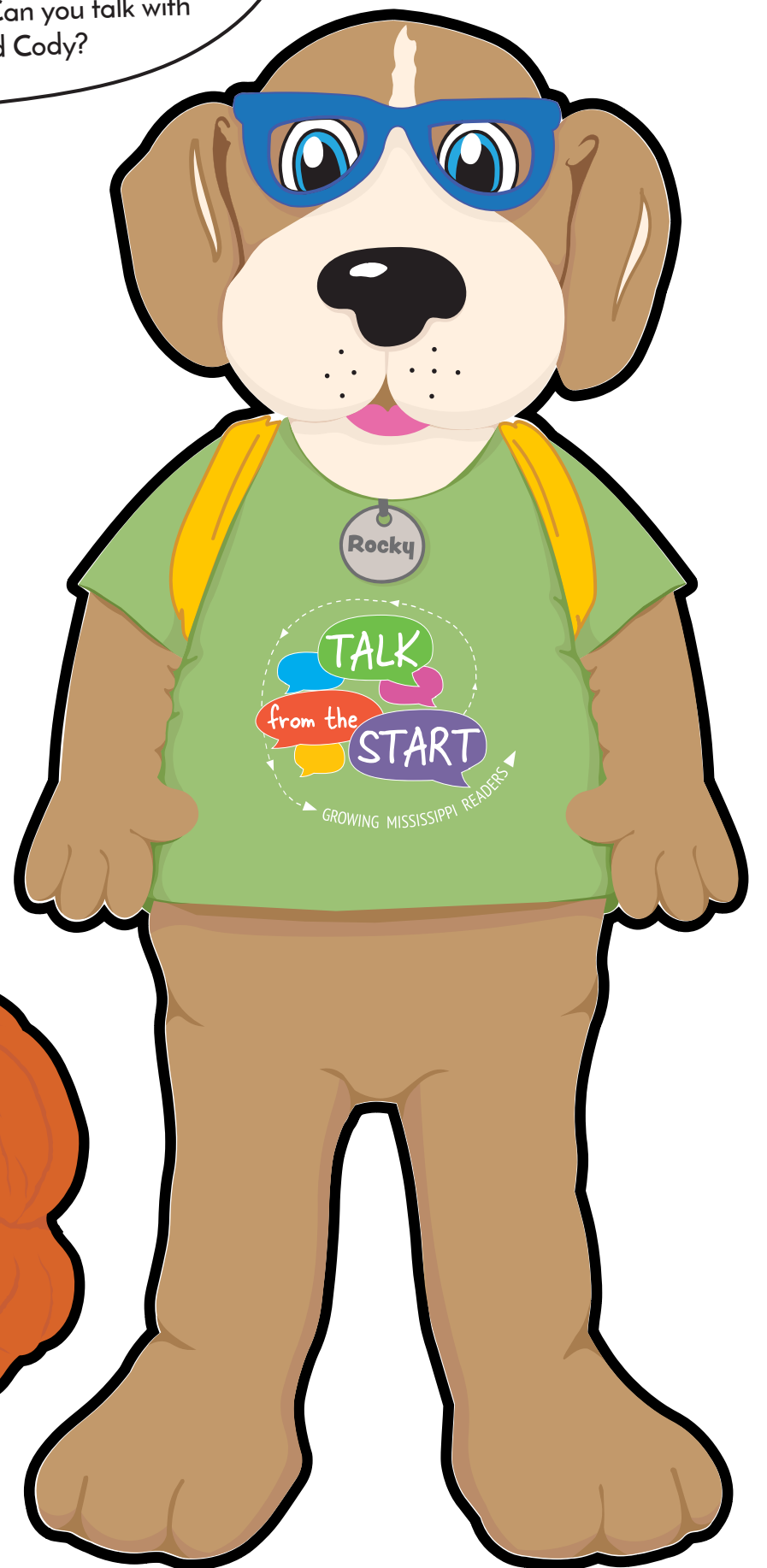


Mississippi Children's Museum



@mschildsmuseum

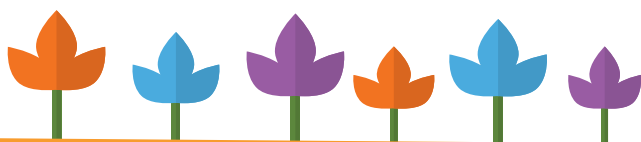
Hi, I'm Rocky the Reader! I love talking with all my friends, both small and tall. I want everyone to know that people learn how to read and write best when we talk with them from the start of their lives. Can you talk with my friends, Mei and Cody?



WE ALL PLAY A PART, TALK FROM THE START!
LEARN MORE:



JOIN US FOR THESE
**UPCOMING
SPRING EVENTS**
IN JACKSON AND MERIDIAN



March 12

Count down to NASA Day at MCM with a virtual viewing of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope!

At MCM, we love all things space – from rockets to astronauts to space food. On NASA Day, guests will learn about what it's like to go to space and be an astronaut. Bring your aspiring astronauts to NASA Day for an out-of-this-world fun filled day of space activities!

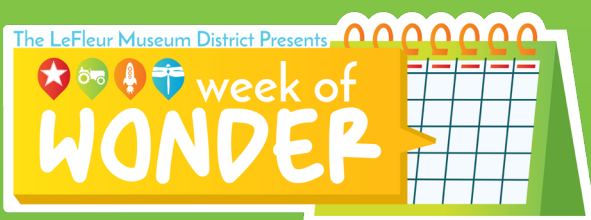
*NASA Day at MCM-Meridian is presented by Meridian Airport Authority.



February 26

You're invited to join us for a Seuss-inspired fantastic fun day at MCM for Dr. Seuss' Silly Birthday Celebration!

This is one of MCM's favorite days of the year when guests from across the region visit to celebrate Dr. Seuss. You'll get messy with ooey-goey oobleck, explore the museum on a Seuss-themed scavenger hunt, and participate in many more creative activities! Readings of everyone's favorite Dr. Seuss books will be enjoyed throughout the day.



March 14 - 18

Visit MCM-Jackson and MCM-Meridian for a Week of Wonder during Spring Break, March 14-18! We have a WONDER-ful week of STEAM themed special programming and activities for you to enjoy.

Each day we focus on a subject in STEAM: Monday is Science, Tuesday is Technology, Wednesday is Engineering, Thursday is Art, and Friday is Math.

Week of Wonder at MCM-Jackson is in partnership with the LeFleur Museum District, where activities will take place at four unique museums: MS Sports Hall of Fame, MS Agriculture & Forestry Museum, Mississippi Children's Museum, and MDWFP's Museum of Natural Science.



April 16

Spring is right around the corner and everyone at MCM is already excited for our annual Bunnies and Butterflies spring event!

Bunnies and Butterflies is the perfect way to welcome the warm, sunny weather of the new season. At this event, guests will learn to plant their own garden, play with live bunnies, learn about our insect friends, create unique costumes of bunny ears or butterfly wings, and so much more. This is an event you definitely won't want to miss, so visit us on Saturday, April 16 at both MCM and MCM-Meridian to help us celebrate spring!



Start your week with fun! MCM is open for special, holiday Mondays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. for extra hours of inspiration and fun. Magic Monday is the perfect solution to a Monday off from school.

Mark your calendar for MCM's upcoming Magic Mondays:
February 21, March 14, April 18



MCM-Jackson's Summer Exhibit!

Beginning May 14, families can make tracks to the Mississippi Children's Museum-Jackson to experience MCM's newest exhibit *Dinosaur Train: The Traveling Exhibit!* Members Preview Party will be Friday, May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Based on The Jim Henson Company's popular PBS KIDS TV series, this limited-engagement exhibit takes children on a time-traveling adventure back to the Age of Dinosaurs. Children can join Buddy, the star of the show, on his quest to learn more about dinosaurs as they hop aboard the Dinosaur Train to learn about paleontology, natural history and more. The exhibit will be at MCM-Jackson from **May 14** through **Sept. 4** and is included with museum admission and free for members!

Dinosaur Train: The Traveling Exhibit was created by The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum in collaboration with The Jim Henson Company. ©2018 The Jim Henson Company, Jim Henson's mark & logo, Dinosaur Train mark & logo, characters and elements are trademarks of The Jim Henson Company. All Rights Reserved.

LeFleur's Bluff PLAYGROUND! IS OPEN FOR PLAY!

Come explore our 30,000-square-foot playground located between the Mississippi Children's Museum-Jackson and MDWFP's Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. With 80 different play activities, 73 inclusive playground structures, and so much more, this playground is ready to be enjoyed by all!

THE LEFLEUR'S BLUFF PLAYGROUND IS
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS A WEEK!

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

THE HEDRA TOWER

Features an 18 ft slide and is the 4th play structure of its kind installed in the country.



**The playground is free
and open to the public!**
Help keep the park beautiful.
Scan here to donate!



THE WEDRA TOWER

A unique play structure for ages 6-23 months. This is the first play structure in the world with this design!

WE-GO SWING

Allows accessibility to children with and without wheelchairs.



**Book a Birthday party at
MCM or MMNS**



More Fun! Coming soon

Spotter's Adventure Trail (a museum walking trail) and The Den (an outdoor pavilion) are scheduled to open later this year.

The 8-foot-wide Spotter's Adventure Trail will be located east of the playground and will conveniently connect both museums and the playground. The trail will feature a fun and interactive outdoor experience with Spotter the Otter and friends.

The Den will be located west of the playground and will include tables and seating for up to 50 students.

The Den will be used for field trips, events, and programs by both museums, including the award-winning Mississippi Science Festival. An adjacent sloped lawn will allow the structure to be used as an open-air amphitheater for large assemblies.

SHADE SAILS

These shade structures cover 75% of the playground, making the area below up to 30 degrees cooler for year-round outdoor play.

Please keep food and drink out of the fenced areas, water is permitted.
Coming soon - a picnic area perfect for enjoying food and drinks!



FUNDED BY
 
MISSISSIPPI
Foundation



The LIFT

Learn . Inspire . Fulfill . Teach

LIFTing Educators and Students to New Heights

The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) launches a new educational program for teachers, The LIFT (Learn. Inspire. Fulfill. Teach), in collaboration with Barksdale Reading Institute (BRI).

The LIFT provides resources for educators, online professional development, and in-person workshops and events all developed with one common goal: to improve the literacy skills of Mississippi’s children. This program will provide both online and in-person professional development opportunities, with a focus on improving STEAM and literacy curriculums.

A group of exemplar teachers were selected to help launch the program statewide for the 2021-2022 school year. Throughout the school year, teachers received resource kits with books and activities that they incorporated into their lesson plans. Exemplar teachers serve as mentors for other teachers in their school.

“Having these teachers is so important to not only help spread the word about resources available to educators across the state, but to also help build a strong community of educators that can help one another and enhance student’s learning experiences,” says Monique Ealey, MCM’s Director of Education.

In addition to the STEAM and literacy kits, monthly courses and a read aloud video series, Listen. Think. Learn, will be available on the website www.thelifmts.org for teachers to learn at their convenience. Courses will be structured as either asynchronous or synchronous and are designed to inspire learning within teachers so they can inspire their students.

Join us as we LIFT educators and students in Mississippi to new heights with our innovative resources, training, on-demand courses, and more. Created with the current and future educator in mind, The LIFT makes learning fun and resourceful, all in one place! Interested participants can email contact@thelifmts.org to learn more about the program or sign-up on www.thelifmts.org to participate in free courses for a limited time.

THE LIFT TEACHER TESTIMONIALS



“First and foremost, my administrator and teachers were very excited to have kits of their own to utilize inside of their classrooms. This grant and program have been very helpful with the enrichment of vocabulary with our students. There is no secret that there is a huge deficit in vocabulary with our students, especially the younger ages. These kits have provided wonderful resources to use, as well as an excellent selection of books. The fact that they are hard copy books has boosted eyes on print as well. Overall, this grant has provided and assisted in a very influential way inside of the classroom. I am so grateful to have been able to be a part of this program.” - **JaBreann Evans-Hood, Copiah County School District**



“We are just getting started on our read alouds and loving them! The first one that we dove into was *Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas*. We know that when we read to students their language, cognitive skills, communication, imagination, and emotional development grow. We focused heavily on the vocabulary in the book. We used the suggestive vocab words but I quickly realized that just because my students are in a high socioeconomic range, didn’t mean that they were familiar with what I thought was “common knowledge” vocabulary. For example, “apartment”. So we slowed down to make sure that we created background knowledge for the students before we proceeded to read the story. They loved comparing and contrasting the story to that of *Goldilocks and The Three Bears* and we made a Venn diagram to map out the two stories.” - **Lou Anne Morgan, Madison Station Elementary**



"My students love the books! They really enjoyed *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* and *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*. I also enjoyed the ease of planning the comprehension questions for the lesson during the read aloud. Having discussion questions that were already so aligned and rigorous made it easy to create an aligned multiple choice assessment for the texts. I've been reteaching RL 3.3 and because my students actually enjoyed the books, they were able to finally grasp the concepts on compare and contrast and cause and effect. Thank you for the amazing books and plans." - **Kristin Myles, Quitman County Elementary**

"The biggest impact I have seen with incorporating read a louds into my instruction is the use of tier 2 vocabulary words in the students' writing. It is important to note that writing happens at a separate time, and the students are choosing to use their new vocabulary on their own. To me, it means so much more that the students are doing this naturally, rather than being told to do it with explicit instruction. Vocabulary has been the biggest impact so far, and that is amazing. I have enjoyed watching the growth in my students." - **Mary Dickerson, Oxford School District**



"Wow, is probably the best word I can use to describe what I am seeing in my classroom! When you have a room full of 5-year-olds who can explain the meaning of words like burrow, transform, and migrate; and accurately apply the word in a sentence after a few short weeks, you definitely have a strategy that works. You would be amazed at the variety of words this kindergarten class has already mastered thanks to the LIFT program, I can't wait to see what the remainder of the year brings." - **Monica Allgood, Petal School District**

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12

Ignite the Night
Adults Only Event



21

MAGIC MONDAY



26

Dr. Seuss'
Silly Birthday
Celebration!

MAR



12

NASA
DAY



14

MAGIC MONDAY



14-18

week of
WONDER

APR



16

Bunnies &
Butterflies



18

MAGIC MONDAY

MAY



13

Dino Train
Member Preview



14

Dino Train
Exhibit Opens!



14

Splash Pad
Opens

MCM - MERIDIAN'S SPRING CALENDAR

Please note that these dates and events take place in Meridian, MS.



21

MAGIC MONDAY



26

Dr. Seuss'
Silly Birthday
Celebration!



12

NASA
DAY



14

MAGIC MONDAY



14-18

week of
WONDER



26

MCM-Meridian's
1st Birthday



16

Bunnies &
Butterflies



18

MAGIC MONDAY



14

Missi the Traveler
Experience

Dates and events are subject to change. Visit mschildrensmuseum.org and mcmmeridian.org for an up-to-date schedule.



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