

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

January 2009

Message from Ms. Maddy

Happy New Year! We now have the results of our Parent Survey. 90 % of our parents are "Very Satisfied" with our program, with the remaining 10 % marking "Satisfied". 83% of our parents attended parent teacher conferences. 58% said they would like more "Parent Involvement Opportunities". The main reason parents enrolled their child in to our program was for "Socialization". Also, 83 % indicated "Curriculum" and 66% indicated "Work" as additional reasons for enrollment. 10 % of our parents would like more information on "Parent Strategies" and more cultural experiences.

We have two up coming family fun events planned. The first one is a "Pot Luck and Painting Party", on Thursday January 29, to prepare for our "Rain Gutter Regatta Races" in February. You can purchase your regatta boat at the pot luck dinner for \$5.00. The pot luck will start at 6:00PM, boat preparation and painting will be at 6:30PM and we will end the evening about 7:00 PM. Our second event will be the actual "Rain Gutter Regatta Races" on Friday, February 13. This evening will start at 6:00 PM, for those who would like dinner, and the races will start

I am sure everyone who was able to come, see, and hear the children in the "Holiday Program" were amazed at how wonderful the children shared the joy of holiday cheer through traditional songs. Many thanks to all who made the Holiday Program a success. The families who brought goodies to share after the event. The staff for their dedication by helping the children prepare for this fun family event. Also, to Mike Herber, who ran the sound at the program, and to Jamie Foster, who took pictures of the event for our web pages. If you would like to see pictures of the event, you can view them on www.worshipweekly.com and the link is Children's Center. An additional thanks to Jamie for the giving of his time and talents to continuously update our web page with pictures and information.

Thank you to Tom Egan for organizing workers and painting Toddler Rm. 1 during the Holiday Break .

Theme For The Month:



January



Discovering Our Winter Wonderland,
Arctic Animals and Weather

Dates To Remember

- Scholastic Book Fair Orders are due - Thursday, January 15
- School is closed for Martin Luther King - Monday, January 19
- AGUMCC Hosts Coffee Hour— Sunday, January 25, after 8:30 and 10:30 services
- Family Pot Luck at 6:00PM and Paint Your Regatta Party at 6:30PM— Thursday, January 29th

A Joyful and Peaceful 2009 to all!

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Joy

We are able to have joy in the midst of a storm as Nehemiah (8:10) reminds us that "*The joy of the Lord is your strength.*" By assuring children that they are cared for and loved, by God and others, they can have confidence and joy, no matter what comes their way. We will be sharing the stories such as, *I Like Myself*, and *Being Friends*. These stories illustrate the concept of joy through emotion and friendship.

Thank you to Gen Yamada for organizing the Holiday Book Fair and to all the parents that volunteered to sell books!

Ms. Katelynn and Ms. Maddy's Pre-K Class

Happy New Year! As we embark on 2009, our Pre-K class focus is on Winter Wonderland, watching the weather, and emotions (With special attention to the emotion of Joy). The letters this month that we will be focusing on are 'K', 'L', 'M' and 'N'. Please continue to bring share items related to these letters. This activity helps with phonic awareness and recognition of the first letter of a word. We will also review the numbers 1 through 5, continue to work on patterns (ABC), classification by attributes, and problem solving. We will continue to work on social interactions with peers, including identifying and expressing feelings. Our class is so grateful to all of the families who donated books to our classroom! We cannot thank the families enough for all of their support and help. Thank you.

- Ms. Katelynn

Ms. Nichole, and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

Happy New Year! We had a great 2008 and are looking forward to continuing the fun and learning in 2009. Our class has grown in size, knowledge and camaraderie. We will continue to work on letter and number recognition. We will focus on the letters 'K', 'L', and 'M' and the numbers 4, 5 and 6 this month. We will continue to work on cutting, gluing, art, patterns and taking turns. Our class would like to welcome Ezekiel and his family to our room. The teachers would like to thank all of the parents for their book donations, volunteering and helping us in the growth of their children. Thank you.

- Mr. Paul

Thank you to Cindy (Zoe's mom) for making beautiful pillow cases for our outdoor cozy space!

Thank you to Adeline and others who have faithfully been helping us with our never ending laundry!

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers

Blessings to all throughout this new year! We hope that you enjoyed some special time with your families and that your children (and perhaps you too) are eager and ready to return to school. We were so pleased with the participation and turnout we had for the Holiday Program. The children did a wonderful job hanging their stars and jingling their bells to their holiday song. Of course, they were as precious as ever in their pajamas and special holiday outfits. Even though rainy days at school can be challenging, with the children learning about winter weather, we will hope and pray for rain. There is great joy in witnessing one of God's awesome wonders and rain provides a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about cause and effect. Thank you to Kyla (Bridget's mom) for coming to make solstice suns with the class and thank you to those who donated new books to our toddler room library. We really appreciate it!

- Cindy Bo

Ms. Lori's Young Toddlers

Welcome back everyone! This month is all about Winter World. Some new experiences we will be having include ice fishing, snowball toss and a little ice skating by way of wax paper wrapped feet. I will have home made cross country ski poles and we will learn about animals that hibernate. The class will be doing a cooking and math activity as we put together a cup of snowman soup and make snowmen that we can eat. If any one has socks that don't have a match, we could use them for a 3D art project this month. Please bring them to Room 2. Thanks, in advance, for all your support.

- Ms. Lori