

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com December 2011

Message from Ms. Maddy

Our theme this month is "Celebration of Traditions". Last month, each family received a "Celebrating Family Heritage" project sheet, in their family folder. To help us learn more about your family and traditions your family may celebrate, please return the attached sheet. If you already turned one in last month, thank you. This is another way we can work together to build the relationship between home and school. Please talk to your child's Teacher/Caregiver if your family has a tradition that you would like to share with your child's classmates. We hope everyone feels welcomed and connected here, as we invite you to share your own traditions with us. I look forward to the New Year, fostering relationships with the children and families, supporting a dedicated staff, and providing the best care we can to the children in our program.

We invite everyone to celebrate the season by coming to our **Children's Holiday Program** on Thursday, December 15. Children will sing songs that reflect celebrated traditions of the children, families, and staff. The Holiday Program will be held in the sanctuary and will last about 25 minutes. The program will be followed by a time of sharing in friendship, and enjoying goodies, brought by the families, in Criswell Hall. **Admission to the Holiday Program is a non-perishable unopened food item.** See attached list of food needed to make Christmas baskets by the Five Cities Christian Women's group. *More details on the back.*

Who likes books? It is time for our **Holiday Scholastic Book Fair**. Again, this year, Cherisse Sweeney will be chairing this event. We will need several volunteers to help during the week of December 12-15. Volunteers will receive \$10 worth of free books. Look for the Sign-Up Sheet on the Sign In/Out Table. You may also contact Cherisse at 310-9790 or cherisse@celladonhouse.com if you are interested in helping with this event.

If you need another cute stocking stuffer or inexpensive gift idea, that keeps on giving all year long, we are selling **Peel-Off Coupon Booklets for \$10.00**. *The booklet provides discounts and special deals at many Five Cities locations, including:* Antonio's Restaurant, Back Door Deli, Boomer's, Burger King, Denny's, Doughboy's, Desire Sweet Shoppe, Gibson Brother's BBQ, Grand Deli, Jalapeno's Restaurant, Jersey Mikes, McDonalds, Nipomo Cleaners, Papa Johns, Rancho Nipomo BBQ, Red Dirt Coffee, Roastin Rooster, Round Table Pizza, Sam's Giant Manhattan Pizza, Seaside Cafe' & Bakery, Subway, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Zorro's Station Grill, & Village Café.

Dates To Remember

- **Friday, December 2 - School Closes at 3:30 for Staff Development.** Its SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY! Show your school spirit and wear your AGUMCC T-shirt. *Last day to turn in your See's Candy order too.*
- **Mon. - Thurs., December 12 - 15 - Holiday Book Fair** in Criswell Hall during school hours (See scheduled hours)
- **Thursday, December 15 - Children's Holiday Program & Social** at 7:00 PM, in the Church Sanctuary (Children arrive in classrooms at 6:45). Social to follow in Criswell Hall
- **Friday, December 16 - Pajama Day**. Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school.
- **Friday, December 23 is a Minimum Day.** School is closed at 12 noon for toddlers and 1:00 for Preschoolers.
- **Monday through Monday December 26—January 2 - School Closed for Christmas Break**

Theme for The Month

"Celebration of Traditions"



Fruit of The Spirit: Peace

How can we be peacemakers in our homes and at school? We are going to be learning about using our words and being role models for others. We will be sharing stories like, "You are Special" and, a classic, "The Mitten", to help illustrate how we all can be peacemakers.



Blessings to all this holiday season!

Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Shirley's Pre-K Class

We enjoyed seeing everyone at our "Giving Soup Celebration" last month. In November, the children enjoyed working in our restaurant, making menus and cooking and serving food to customers. We learned that everyone needed to do a job to make the restaurant run smoothly. For the month of December, we will be working with the letters 'M', 'N', and 'O' and the numbers 10, 11, and 12. In addition, this month, we will be talking about the different meanings of some of our favorite family holiday traditions. If you would like to share your family tradition with our class, please talk with Ms. Shirley or me. We hope to see everyone at our Holiday Program, where we are sure to warm the hearts of everyone with the special songs we are practicing. As we look back on 2011, we have so many things to be thankful for and we look forward to the many blessings that lie ahead.

-Ms. Rebecca

A TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID

Pastor David's "Fruit of the Spirit" message to the children, this month, will be about "Peace". Once again, Ms. Shirley will bring "Goody Bear" to share his special message from his heart. This month, this special time together will be on **Wednesday and Thursday, December 21 and 22, 9:30 AM, in the Church Narthex**.

Ms. Kristel's Preschool Class

In November we celebrated the theme of "Being Thankful and Sharing with Others". The children also learned about fall harvest vegetables. Our "Fruit of the Spirit" for November was "Faithfulness". Tim and Lucy, our classroom puppets, talked to the children about being faithful and how we can be thankful for what we have. The class just loves Tim and Lucy, even though Lucy and Tim are sometimes not very kind to each other. The children always give them great ideas on how to be more polite with and thankful for each other. The class enjoyed writing their names on dotted lines and expressing themselves through different ways of doing art. The children got the chance to do Origami in November, as well, and that was a hit. Boy they

sure have a creative side!!! In December we will introduce the "Celebration of Traditions". This is a chance for all the children to get to know their family origins and will get to see if their peers have a place of origin in common. It will be great to learn about each family and what unique traditions, experiences, cultural foods you bring to our community. The "Fruit of the Spirit" for December is "Peace" and I am sure Tim and Lucy will have great lessons to share with the children about that. The star is the shape for the month and there will be more writing and letter recognition in December, as well. As we count down to Christmas, the children will help in the counting process!!! December, here we come!!! Truly,
Miss Kristel



Thank you to everyone who purchased or helped the staff sell "See's Candy". The deadline to order is Friday, Dec. 2. The candy is scheduled to arrive by Friday, Dec 16. The money we raised will help the staff attend our annual professional development conference in San Diego.

Cindy Bo and Ms. Wasinii's Toddlers

We hope you all enjoyed our Giving Celebration this year. It is always nice to share that time with you and your children. Thank you to all those who donated spare change for our "Pennies for Turkeys" jar. The children got excited about bringing their coins in to help buy turkeys for others. They also enjoyed exploring the different denominations of money as each took a turn putting a penny, nickel, dime and quarter in the jar. What a great way to make helping others fun! A lot of dramatic play took place in the classroom last month. As we approached the Thanksgiving Holiday, dressed in aprons, the children set the banqueting table, prepared a variety of foods (Some "hot" and some "cooled off") and cleaned up afterwards. At times, they even remembered to say a prayer before their meals. This month we will explore different family traditions and holidays. This is the time of year when we invite parents to come into our classroom and share their special holiday traditions if they wish to. We will also be learning some fun songs to share with you at our Holiday Program. We hope you all can make it. It is always a special time of getting together and rejoicing over each one of the precious children God has placed in our lives. Merry Christmas!
-Cindy Bo



AGUMCC is collecting non-perishable unopened food items to continue in the spirit of giving and sharing with others. There is a basket for your donations located under the "Sign In /Out Table". Also, please bring non-perishable unopened food items to donate at the Holiday Program. The Five Cities Christian Women will be making "Christmas Baskets" for families in need, in our community,