

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Ms. Maddy

Happy New Year!

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! Thank you to the families who brought goodies to share after the program and to the staff for their dedication in helping the children prepare for this fun family event. I would also like to thank Jordan Henderson who ran the sound for the program.

2012 was a very busy year, with many fun filled events that fostered learning and friendships. I extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all the families that have chosen our program. It is our desire to provide the best of quality care to children by offering a low child to teacher ratio and an environment that is enriching, both inside and outside the classroom. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) sets the standards of quality, which we follow, as we continue to work on the NAEYC Accreditation Self-Study. If you know of a family that is looking for childcare, we have openings in both our preschool and Pre K classrooms.

We have two upcoming family fun events planned. Both events will help the staff raise funds needed to attend the "California Association for the Education of Young Children" (CAEYC) conference in San Jose. Mark your calendar because school will be closed on Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15 for the staff to attend. The first event is a "Taco Bar Dinner and Regatta Painting Party", on Friday, January 25 at 6:30 PM. This event is to prepare for our "Rain Gutter Regatta Races" in February. The "Taco Bar Dinner" tickets are \$5 a plate and you can purchase your regatta boat, at the dinner, for an additional \$5. The dinner will start at 6:30 and the boat preparation and painting will follow. The evening will end about 7:30ish. Our second event will be the actual "Spaghetti Dinner and Rain Gutter Regatta Races" on Friday, February 22. This evening will also start at 6:30 with dinner and with the races beginning around 7:00. These events provide our families another opportunity to have fun, build new friendships, and strengthen the heart of our school community.

The Fall Survey results will be coming soon. Thank you to everyone who turned them in. The children really enjoyed the Pizza and Pajama Party day, celebrating the collection of the surveys.

Are you getting e-mails from me? If not and you would like to get monthly reminders about special events and upcoming deadlines, please put your e-mail address in the tuition box.

Do you need extra care from time to time? If so, fill out an "Extra Care Form", then give it to your teacher. She will then give it to me for approval. To assure space is available, a 24 hour notice is preferable.

Special Announcement

Starting January 2013, families who are members of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande will receive a 10% discount towards their child's monthly tuition, but not to exceed \$68.00 per month.



Theme For The Month:
Discovering Our Winter Wonderland,
Arctic Animals and Weather

Dates To Remember

- **Monday, January 21** - School is closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- **Friday, January 25** - Taco Bar Dinner and Regatta Painting Party Fundraiser at 6:30 PM
- **Thursday, January 31** - Scholastic Book Fair

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Joy

We can 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 stories such as *I Like Myself* and *Being Friends*. These stories illustrate the concept of joy through

A TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID

Pastor David's "Fruit of the Spirit" message to the children, this month, will be "Joy". Once again, Ms. Shirley will bring "Goodie Bear" to share a special message from his heart. This month, this special time together will be on **Wednesday and Thursday, January 30 and 31, 9:30 AM, in the Church Narthex.**

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

Happy New year! As we embark in 2013, our Pre-K class focus is on the "Winter World", watching the weather, and learning about emotions (with special attention to the emotion of joy). The letters this month that we will be focusing on are 'L', 'M', and 'N'. Please continue to bring "Share" items related to these letters. This activity will help with phonic awareness and recognition of the first letter of a word. We will also continue with numbers 12 through 14. We would like to thank all the Pre-K families who gave to worthy causes this holiday season and donated books to our classroom. We look forward to another exciting year! - Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a fun filled holiday season. December was a very busy month, with preparations for our holiday program, as well as the anticipation of fun December traditions. I want to welcome Ms. Kassie, as my new co-teacher, to our classroom. Ms. Kassie and I would like to thank everyone who participated in the See's Candy sales as well as the Scholastic Book Fair. In January our focus will be "Our Winter World". We will share about various types of weather conditions, arctic animals, and how to stay dry and warm during the winter time. We will continue introducing letters and their sounds. This month we will be learning about the letters 'M', 'N' and 'O'. We will be counting objects using the number 5. Colors for the month will be blue and white, and basic shapes will be used in matching and sorting games. Blessings to all for a great new year. Welcome 2013! This will be a great year!!! Truly, -Ms. Shirley

Ms. April and Ms. Maddy's Toddlers

December was a very exciting month for the toddlers. We hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Program and all of the wonderful singing! We practiced Jingle Bells and We Wish You a Merry Christmas from the end of No-

vember and all through December. Thank you to all of the families who participated in the See's Candy sales and the Scholastic Book Fair! We really appreciate all of you and all of your hard work! In January our theme will be "Our Winter World". We will be learning about the animals that live in the arctic. We will also be talking about snow and be able to touch cold, cold ice through different mediums. We will continue our practice of counting (1-10, 1-15, 1-20, 1-30) through flannel board stories with snowflakes, snowmen and leaves. We hope everybody enjoyed their holiday traditions and celebrations! -Ms. April

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

I 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. Thank you to those who participated in the Holiday Program. The children did a great job bringing out their gifts for the baby Jesus, jingling their bells and looking adorable in their special holiday outfits. Thanks, also, to all who donated books, through our Scholastic Book Fair and to all who supported us through the sale of See's Candy. We appreciate it! It is 2013 and I anticipate a great year together with this very special group. I want to welcome Emma Forgey and her family, who joined our Young Toddlers group last month. (Her sister Chloe is in the other toddler class). This month we will explore our winter world and different types of weather. Rain, wind, clouds, and rainbows are a few of God's awesome wonders that we may have a chance to witness together and, as we observe these with the children, they can learn new vocabulary, about cause and effect, individual preferences, and more. Though it's doubtful the children will experience snow here at school, we will, never the less, share about various types of weather conditions, arctic animals and how to keep dry and warm during the winter months. Blessings to all for an exceptional new year! - Cindy Bo

Many Thanks

- Thank you to Adeline and Ms. Pam who have faithfully been helping us with our never ending laundry! *If you too would like to help with the laundry, feel free to take it on Friday or Monday afternoons.*
- Also, thank you to our Children's Center Chronicle Editor, Cindy Bo, who gives of her time and talent each month to make this newsletter possible.