

# Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center [www.worshipweekly.com](http://www.worshipweekly.com)

## Message from Maddy

**Spring is here and it is "The Month of the Young Child"**. Our school has planned our annual "Open House" for Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 PM. There will also be a spaghetti dinner that night, hosted by the First United Methodist Church Sunday School Staff, for only \$5 a plate. Dinner will be from 5:45 to 6:45 in Criswell Hall. Following dinner, there will be a welcome to kick off our Open House and an overview of upcoming events and registration information. Families, friends, and the community are invited to attend this event. This is a time for the staff to share the importance of the play, exploration, and learning that occurs, each day, at our center. In addition, you will have an opportunity to see the many learning activities and areas of interest both in and outside the classroom.

**A Work Day is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, April 6.** We will be putting new sod in the backyard. There will be childcare and treats. Look for the sign up on the Sign In/Out table.

**Our "Year Round" registration takes place in April.** The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center opened its doors in September 2005 with 3 children. We currently have 44 children enrolled. The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll this year will be Wednesday, April 10. Enrollment for families on our "Waiting List" will start on April 15. If there are still openings, "Open Registration", will start on May 1 for the general public. Toddlers account for most of our new enrollment as our current toddlers transition into the preschool room. There are several spaces left, to enroll new families in our preschool, as well. After the preschool children transition into the Pre-K class, there may only be one or two openings for new Pre-K families. Our Pre-K program follows the Pre-K Guidelines set by the Department of Education which is designed to help children to successfully enter Kindergarten. **It is always good to plan ahead when looking for a quality program.** We pride ourselves on having an educated staff that have a love for and commitment to young children. Also, we work hard on creating an environment that stands for quality by following the standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. *Thank you to the staff, the families, the church and the board members, for all their time and dedication in making this a great program.*

**April 14 is the AGUMCC Annual Children's Center Sunday Celebration.** Families are invited to come and hear the children sing and meet Goodie Bear at the 10:30AM church service. Following the service, AGUMCC will be hosting an Art Show, Ice Cream Social with homemade treats from 11:30 - 12:30. This event is free and fun for the whole family. We are looking for volunteers to bring homemade treats to share at this event. The sign up sheet will be on the Sign In/Out table.

**Do you own a computer?** Please bring your empty ink cartridges for the staff to recycle for cash at Office Max and Staples. The collection container, for the ink cartridges, is located next to the Sign In/Out table.

## Theme for The Month:

**New Life &**

**Springtime Discovery**

Things that slither, fly, crawl, and hop, oh my!



**Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Goodness**

"If you are wise and understand God's ways, live a life of steady **goodness** so that only good deeds will pour forth" James 3:3



## Dates to Remember

### APRIL

- **MONTH OF APRIL - ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION FOR AGUMCC'S 2013/2014 SCHOOL YEAR.**
- **Saturday, April 6, - WORK DAY**, 9:00-12:00, to put new sod in the backyard.
- **Thursday, April 11 - OPEN HOUSE**, 7:00 -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 5:45-6:45 PM in Criswell Hall.
- **Sunday, April 14- CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY.** Children sing at the 10:30 Service, followed by an Art Show and Ice Cream Social, 11:30 -12:30.

### MAY

- **Friday, May 10 - STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**, 1:00 PM, in the McMillen room.

### **TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID**

This month, Pastor David and Goodie Bear (with Ms. Shirley) will share about Goodness. This special time will be on Wednesday and Thursday April 25 and 26, in the church narthex, at 9:30AM

#### **Ms. Rebecca's Pre-K Class**

March just flew by! Our class had a fun time, learning about growing plants, planting seeds, and taking care of them. We have also had an exciting time learning about different artists, and creating art inspired by those artists. Because it has been so enjoyed by the children and parents, we will continue to learn about a few more artists in the month of April. The art created by the children will be in our annual Art Show, hosted by the United Methodist Church. For the month of April, we will also be learning about life cycles and insects. We will focus on the letters 'V', 'W', 'X', 'Y', and 'Z'. Conferences are coming, so the month of April will also include assessments of the children, in preparation for May. Last, but not least, it's time to start thinking about kindergarten. The public elementary schools and private schools are or will be holding their kindergarten round ups soon.

-Ms. Rebecca

#### **Ms. Kassie and Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class**

April is here!!! We did a lot in the month of March. We planted the seeds that your children brought for our nature collection. The children did individual planting and group planting with the different seeds. We were learning about and had hands on experiences with animals that live on the farm. Coming up in April we will be looking forward to the sprouting of our seeds that we have planted. We will also be exploring the world of the creepy and crawlly . The nature collection for this month is "Bugs". You can bring in a picture of a bug that you and your child found and put a short description of the insect, where you found it, etc., on the back. The Fruit of the Spirit this month is "Goodness". The letters that we will be focusing on will be 'V', 'W', and 'X'.

-Ms. Kassie

#### **Ms. April and Ms. Kristel's Toddlers**

March was an exciting month, with different visits! The Health Department came to visit and, through the use of different puppet animals, talked about being healthy. We also had a visit from a baby pig, chickens and a horse. What a great way to learn about farm animals at school! The children started sprouting pea seeds in the window! Plus, we planted sunflowers, which can be seen on the shelf. We have been carefully

watching how these seeds have been growing and learning about what plants need to help them grow. The children loved naming and making the sounds of different farm animals. We also talked about how there are different kinds of farms like ostrich farms, flower farms, apple farms, alligator farms, etc. We welcomed Ms. Kristel as the new teacher in Room 2! Ms. Kristel was originally with the toddlers and has most recently been one of our Pre-K teachers. She has a vast knowledge of toddlers so will bring a lot to our toddler group! She has been visiting room 2 periodically, as one of the floater teachers, to start building relationships with the children in our group. Just a reminder, in July, all of the children from Room 2 will be moving into the preschool classroom. When the children move to the next room, they will be expected to be using the toilet regularly. During diaper changing, we have been asking all children if they would like to use the toilet. Many children have become more curious about the toilet since many of their friends are using it. If you would like more information about toilet learning, please see Ms. Kristel or myself.

-Ms. April

#### **Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers**

The Young Toddlers enjoyed our time exploring farm animals, how plants grow and a variety of vegetables and fruits. We looked, touched and tasted vegetables and fruits in different forms: raw, cooked, squeezed etc. We also read stories about and did our best at gardening, planting plants and our wheat berries. They worked on their fine motor skills and eye hand coordination, as they watered the plants and wheat grass with spray bottles and sprinkler cans. We look forward to watching them grow as we continue to care for them. Now we move into our celebration of new life, as flowers bloom and fruits emerge, tomatoes from our tomato plants, hopefully!. This is also an enjoyable time to explore the smallest of God's creatures : bugs and insects. We will learn about a variety of critters, some with six legs or some with eight or more. Some will have antennas and some will have wings. We will also explore the process of metamorphosis: caterpillar to a butterfly. The children have been thrilled to discover many of these bugs and insects in our yards already. They get so excited and can learn so much from their discoveries. Thanks, again, for helping to make it possible for the staff to attend our professional conference last month. I gained some new insights as well as affirmed much of what I believe to be best practices in my work with children. Happy Spring!

-Cindy Bo