

# Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com December 2013

## Message from Ms. Maddy

The Giving Celebration was a hit. Thank you to everyone who gave to and participated at the event. It was a success with 55 people in attendance. Many hands made light work with set up, serving, and clean up. Also at the celebration were the ladies from Five Cities Christian Women's' Food Pantry. We presented them with the money that was collected during the month of November which came to \$134.25. For every dollar we give them it equals \$10 at the Food Pantry. They were very appreciative and will use the money to buy turkeys for the Christmas baskets this year that will be given to families in need in our community.

Our theme this month is "**Celebration of Traditions**". Each family will receive 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 this sheet. This is another way we can work together to build the relationship between home and school. Please talk to your child's Teacher 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 12 at 7:00 pm.. 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 the attached list of foods needed, by the Five Cities Christian Women's group, to make Christmas baskets. *More details on the back.*

We are selling **See's Candy for the Holidays**. The money raised by this fundraiser will assist teachers in attending the annual "California Association for the Education of Young Children" (CAEYC) conference, April 3 - 5, this coming year. Order forms went out with the November newsletter, if you would like to purchase "See's Candy" or know others who love this delicious treat and would like to support our staff by placing an order. "See's Candy" orders are due to your teacher by Wednesday, December 4.

We will be having a "**Pajama and Pizza Party**" on Friday Dec 13 to celebrate the turning in of the **Fall Surveys**. Please turn in your surveys to your child's teacher by Dec 13.

## Dates To Remember

- **Friday, December 6** - School Closes at 3:30 for Staff Development. Its **SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY!** Show your school spirit and wear your AGUMCC T-shirt.
- **Mon. - Thurs., December 9-12** - **Holiday Book Fair**, in Criswell Hall, during school hours (See scheduled hours)
- **Thursday, December 12** - **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 13** - **Pajama Day and Pizza** - Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school.
- **Monday through Friday, December 23-27** - **School is closed for Christmas Break.**
- **Wednesday, January 1** - **School is closed for New Years Day.**

## 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.

### Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Tresha's Pre-K Class

Thank you to all our families and friends for participating in the Giving Celebration! We enjoyed spending time with the families and children. In November we celebrated the theme "Being Thankful and Sharing with Others." The children made handprint turkey placemats and told us what they are thankful for. The Pre-Ker's love to choose a "daily job" and are very helpful within the classroom. The children love participating in both group times as well. We have been working on practicing our letters and numbers. The children really enjoy our "share time", especially linking their share item to the letter of the week. During the month of December we will focus on the following: Numbers 14, 15, and 16 and the letters, 'M' and 'N'. The theme for the month of December will be "Celebration of Traditions." If your family would like to share a special tradition, such as a book, food, songs, etc., please feel free to share it with us. December's "Fruit of the Spirit" will be "Peace". We will be practicing our songs for our special Holiday Program on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM. We will be closed for the week of Christmas, December 23-27. Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a happy new year!

-Ms. Tresha

AGUMCC is collecting **non-perishable unopened food items** to continue in the spirit of giving and sharing with others. We are asking each family to please bring a non-perishable unopened food item, to donate, as



**"Admission" to the Holiday Program.** The Five Cities Christian Women will be making "Christmas Baskets" for families in need in our community. Also, there is a basket for your donations located next to the "Sign In /Out Table" if you would like to donate early or more than once.

We are collecting "Labels for Education". You can find these labels on packages, cans, beverages, magazines, and cereals boxes. Cut the labels out and put them in the Labels for Education Box located next to the Sign In/Out table. For more information go to [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com)



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

The Giving Celebration was a success. Thank you for joining our special time of celebrating friends and family. There has been a lot of learning going on in our class recently. We learned about "Tucker the Turtle" and how he tucks himself away when he gets mad. We also learned how to use our "Problem Solving Kit". In November, the children also enjoyed making thankful feathers for our "Thankful Turkey". We discussed the concept of thankfulness and how we are thankful for things we love and that make us happy. December is here. This is the month for "Celebration of Traditions". We welcome every family to bring their own tradition to share in the classroom. This month, our class will be continuing with "Tucker the Turtle" and we will be having a "Toy Shop" in our classroom. We will be incorporating the block area in to the dramatic play area. This way, the children can keep working on their creations throughout the day or even the week. We are practicing our holiday songs too. They are so excited to perform their songs for all of you on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. There will be holiday treats after our Christmas program too.

-Ms. Kassie



**Blessings to all this  
holiday season.**

## Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

### **A TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR**

Pastor David's "Fruit of the Spirit" message to the children, this month, will be about "Peace". 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, December 18 and 19, 9:30 AM, in the Church Narthex.**

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

Thank you everyone who attended and participated in the *Giving Celebration!* We really enjoyed having another opportunity to spend time with the children and families outside of the classroom! In November the children got to explore the world of construction in our dramatic play area. The children practiced using their hands for building and respecting other people's structures, by not knocking them down. Throughout the year we have been practicing counting and colors through songs, books and flannel board stories. In November, we introduced "turkey wore his color feather to school" during group time. The children all got a different colored feather and practiced being patient while waiting for their turn to put a feather on the turkey. The children also practiced patience while waiting for a turn to help make pumpkin pie. Then the children all got to sample the pumpkin pie! In December, we will be following the theme "Celebration of Traditions." If your family has a special tradition, such as a book, food, songs, etc.. Please feel free to share it with us. The "Fruit of the Spirit" focus, this month, is "Peace". We will be continuing to practice using kind words, hands and feet in the classroom. Our share collection will be pinecones; we will have a space available for every child to bring in a pinecone. We will also be practicing our song for the Holiday Program. We look forward to seeing everyone there! -Ms. April

I hope those of you who were able to attend, enjoyed our *Giving Celebration* this year. It was so nice to share that time with you and your children. During the month of November, the Young Toddlers continued to demonstrate how much they have learned about our class routines and about each other. Parents shared, with me, that their children were mentioning the names of their friends at home and on the way to school, eager to see them. Each one of them is able to identify others in the group, by name, and even able to get something or put something away, in the appropriate cubby, for each other. They spend a lot of time observing, interacting and engaging with each other throughout the day. It is so sweet to hear their simple communications and to observe them holding hands, hugging or offering something to another. Thank you to all those who donated spare change for our "Pennies for Turkeys" jar. The children got excited about taking turns to put coins, they brought from home, in our jar, to help buy turkeys for others. What a great way to make helping others fun! This month we will explore different family traditions and holidays. I would like to invite you to share your special holiday traditions (pictures, foods, stories, etc.) with our class if you'd like. We will also be practicing "Jingle Bells", to share with you at our Holiday Program. I 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

Thank you to everyone who purchased or helped the staff sell "**See's Candy**". *The deadline to order is **Wednesday, Dec. 4.** The candy is scheduled to arrive by Friday, Dec 13.* The money we raise will help the staff attend our annual professional development conference, on April 3 and 4 in Pasadena.

