

# Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com January 2014

## 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 Christmas 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.

2013 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.

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 Pasadena. Mark your calendar because school will be closed on Thursday, April 3 and Friday, April 4 for the staff to attend. The first event is a "Taco Bar Dinner and Regatta Painting Party", on Friday, January 31 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 "Spaghetti Dinner and Rain Gutter Regatta Races" on Friday, February 28. 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 child's teacher. She will then give it to me for approval. To assure space is available, 24 hour notice is preferable.

Do you need to change your child's contract? We understand that changes do occur for families. Therefore, regarding schedule changes, we have a 30-day notice policy. Families are required to make changes, regarding their child care needs, 30 days in advance. There is always movement in childcare and spaces for children, in our program, are limited. With this policy in place, when a space does open up for another family, AGUMCC has ample time to notify a new family so they too can join our program.

### Special Announcement

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

### 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 emotion and friendship.

### A TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR

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 8 and 9, 9:30 AM, in the Church Narthex.**

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

WOW! December went by quick, I can't believe it. I hope everyone had a great holiday with your families. The Holiday Program was wonderful! It is so fun to see the children sing and show off all their hard work and practice. With that, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! As we embark on 2014, 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 'Q', 'R', and 'S'. 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 our numbers and revisit previous numbers, on a regular bases. We look forward to an exciting New Year of growth and development. - Ms. Rebecca

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

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a fun filled holiday season. December was busy, with preparations for our Holiday Program, as well as anticipating all of the fun December traditions. We want to thank everyone who participated in the Sees' Candy sales. 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. We will also continue to introduce letters and the sounds they make. The letters we will be learning about this month will be 'P', 'Q', and 'R'. Colors of the month will be blue and white. We will be using basic shapes, in matching and sorting games, as well. Blessings to all for a great New Year. Welcome 2014! This will be a great year! Truly, -Ms. Shirley

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

In December the children learned about different family and country holiday traditions. During circle time, the children were able to discuss what their holiday traditions are at home. We also worked hard on learning our song for the Holiday Program. Thank you to everyone who attended! It

wouldn't have been as successful without all of your participation. Thank you to all the families who participated in the See's Candy fundraiser, too! In January, we will be focusing on the theme "Winter World". We will be learning about different arctic animals and how some animals go into hibernation during the winter. During this time, we will also be learning about different variations of weather; rain, snow, rainbows, sun, hail, etc.... This month we will be checking on the weather, on a daily basis. The children will also have an opportunity to discuss appropriate clothing attire, while they are discussing what the weather is like, and we will be introducing them to the "Weather Bear". During group time the children will have an opportunity to choose different types of clothing that the Weather Bear will wear for the day. Also, we want to welcome Blake to our class and his mom, Sarah and his dad Jeff Lawor.

- 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 supported us through the sale of See's Candy. We appreciate it! It is 2014 and I anticipate a great year together with this very special group. I want to welcome Gigi and her family, who are joining our Young Toddlers group this month. In January we will be exploring 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 a exceptional New Year!

- Cindy Bo

### Many Thanks

- Thank you to Adeline, Ms. Pam, and Cindy 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.