

# Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center [www.worshipweekly.com](http://www.worshipweekly.com) May 2014

## Message From Ms. Maddy:

We want to improve our communication and be better connected with all our families. Look for the "Parent Communication Board" in your child's classroom. These boards are for you to leave your child's teacher a note or attach an "Extra Care" request form. Also, in the entryway, there is a "Parent Network and Wish Board". On one side of the board, parents can post their business cards, a picture to share, items that need a new home or an item to sell. On the other side of the board, teachers post items they need or would like to add to their classrooms. If you see an item on the board that you would like to donate or purchase, take the item notice off the board and return the item, with the note, to the office. We are always thankful for and appreciate the support we receive from our families!

The Children's Center Sunday event was a wonderful celebration of the children. We heard them sing and saw their beautiful art in Criswell Hall. Thank you to those who volunteered their help, to those who came, to those who purchased the classroom masterpieces, and to those who brought items to share at the social. See pictures of this wonderful event at [www.worshipweekly.com](http://www.worshipweekly.com).

Staff Appreciation Luncheon is Friday, May 9 at 1:00 PM. I'm looking for parents that would like to help with this special event, for the staff. If you can help with providing food, decorating, set up and/or clean up let me know. There will be a Sign Up Sheet on the Sign In/Out table, in the entryway.

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 for me.

May is Parent-Teacher Conference Time. This is an excellent opportunity for your child's teacher to share, with you, the many experiences and milestones your child has had throughout the year. After attending your conference, please return the Spring Survey. Our school strives to be the best it can be. The surveys let us know how we are doing and where or how we can improve our program (*The survey can be anonymous*). Thank you for your continued support in making this a quality program for the children and families we serve.

## Show your School Spirit!

We are placing T-shirt (\$10) and sweatshirt (\$15) orders on **Friday, May 23.**

**Don't delay!** Children need their T-shirts in time for the "Promotion and Acknowledgement Program" on Thursday, June 12, 2014.



## Fruit of the Spirit Focus for May **Self-Control**

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and **self-control**" Galatians 5:23

There are several favorite children's books, that we will read, to remind the children of how they can learn to control themselves, when dealing with strong emotions, including *When I Was Little* by Jamie Lee Curtis and *When Sophie Gets Angry-Really, Really Angry* by Molly Bang.

## Theme for May Down at the



## Dates to remember

May is the month for  
**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Sign-up with your child's Teacher/Caregiver for your individual meeting date and time.

- Friday, May 9- **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, May 11 - **Happy Mother's Day!**
- Monday, May 26- **School is Closed for Memorial day**
- Thursday, June 12 - Our annual **Promotion and Acknowledgement Program** will be held in the United Methodist Church Sanctuary, at 7:00 PM. All children and their families are invited to this memorable event. Children arrive @ 6:45 in their classroom.



## TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

This is a fun, annual event that our school families enjoy doing, each year, for the staff. This year, it will be held on Friday, May 9, 1:00 PM in the McMillen Room. A sign-up, to help with this event, will be on the Sign In/Out Table. If you can help providing food, decorating, set up and/or clean up call Ms. Maddy.

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

April was so full of fun! Learning about seeds, watching our mystery seeds grow, and then discovering we were growing grass. The children enjoyed trimming the grass and seeing the roots in the clear cups. We also have had a fun time watching our caterpillars grow and learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. The children can hardly wait for the caterpillars, who have made their chrysalis', to emerge as butterflies. The children also learned about one more artist, "Jackson Pollock". They made two art pieces, inspired by him; they loved dripping and splattering the paint on a real canvas. The biggest thing on the children's mind was the pizza party! They could not wait, so we made dramatic play into a pizza parlor. The children made pizza after pizza and learned about being a customer, waiter, waitress, cook and pizza delivery person. We would also like to thank everyone who attended the Concert, Open House and Children's Center Sunday. The children, like I said before, had a wonderful time making the art for the Art Auction. In May, we will be focusing on the theme "Down at the Pond" If anyone knows where to get some pollywogs, we would love to have some for our classroom! We have finished the Zoo-Phonics Alphabet, so we will be working on review. We have also started to learn some sight words. May is also parent/teacher conference time. We will be putting out sign-up sheets soon.

-Ms. Rebecca

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

In April our class explored bugs, insects, butterflies and their life cycles. We learned which bugs were insects and which ones were not. The preschool class would like to thank you for attending our Open House. We hope you enjoyed learning about our class. In May we will be moving on to "Down at the Pond". We hope to observe pollywogs changing into frogs. If any of you have a pond in your yard and could spare some tadpoles, it would be greatly appreciated. "Self Control" will be the Fruit of the Spirit this month. Tim and Lucy will have lots to say about that! We will review all the shapes and numbers we've learned. Our focus colors will be the pastels, pink, lavender, and yellow. As we finish out the alphabet this month, and get ready for Pre-K, we will continue to use letters and sounds in review. We will challenge the children with learning to trace the letters in their name. Some of them are even ready to write their names by looking at them. In addition to all of this, we will be conducting parent-teacher conferences. Sign-ups will be in the classroom. Your children are growing so fast and we are so proud of them.

-Ms. Shirley

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

April was a busy month for the toddlers! At the end of March we got our caterpillars that we have been watching grow on a daily basis. The children had many questions about the process of metamorphosis. The children also enjoyed going on bug hunts out on the yards! Thank you for everyone who attended the Concert, Open House, and Children's Center Sunday! The children had so much fun painting our canvas that was auctioned off. It was a month long process. Every week the children got to explore the paint, using their fine motor skills and different colors of paint. We also read board books about Van Gogh and his different art pieces. We watched the process of the seeds, the children brought to class, growing into different vegetables and/or flowers. The children were also able to water their seeds, using spray bottles. In May we will be focusing on the theme "Down at the Pond." If anyone has access to pollywogs, please let us know if you or someone you know would be able to bring some to the school. We would love to have some for our classroom and be able to watch the process of the pollywog turning into a Frog! Our shared collection will be rocks/fossils so, if the children would like to bring in some to share during group time, we would love to see them! Just a reminder, in order for the children to move on to the preschool classroom in July, they must be potty trained. Now is the time to start the transition from diapers/pull-ups to using the toilet full time.

-Ms. April

### Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

In April, we explored "New Life" as we began observing the metamorphosis of four little caterpillars, as they formed their chrysalis' and will soon emerge beautiful Painted Lady Butterflies. The young toddlers will also be able to enjoy releasing them into their new habitat (Our Backyard). Many of the young toddlers showed great interest in our theme of exploring bugs. They pointed out pictures and play objects, found in the environment, that matched creatures we talked, read stories or sang songs about. Thanks to those who were able to participate in one or all of the many events that took place in April (Concert-Pizza Party, Open House, Heritage Pot-Luck Picnic and Children's Center Sunday). It is so nice to have families involved and to have the chance to get to know you better! In May we will be focusing on the theme "Down at the Pond". We hope to observe pollywogs changing into frogs, talk about the beaver's hard work ethic, the unique design of turtles, and more. There has been a lot of joy in outdoor discoveries, such as lizards, snails, and ladybugs, that I'm sure will continue throughout this month as well. I look forward to our time together during parent-teacher conferences this month, too!

-Cindy Bo

## TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID

This month, Pastor David and Goodie Bear (with Ms. Shirley) will share about Self Control. This special time will be on Wednesday and Thursday May 7 and 8, in the church narthex, at 9:15AM