

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Ms. Maddy:

The Family Survey Spring 2014 Results are in. 100% of the families surveyed felt that their child was well cared for and that their child was happy and enjoyed participating in our program. 83% of the families were "Very Satisfied". According to the survey, the most popular reason why families chose our program was for the age-appropriate curriculum. Comments the families wrote were: "Great program and we love the low ratio." "Very caring teachers, always available to communicate." "Ms. Kassie and Ms. Shirley were wonderful and observant teachers."

The most popular events that the families participated in last year were the Holiday Program in December, the Painting and Taco Party in January, the Regatta Race Event in February, and the Open House in April. 100% of the families, that turned in the survey, participated in Parent/Teacher Conferences. The families found that their child achieved his/her goals and was ready to move forward.

The areas where families feel there can be improvement is in "Parent Involvement" and better communicating how we share our Christian teaching with the children.

100% of the families who completed this survey were aware that we are participating in the Self-Study for Accreditation, through NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). However, only 60% understood how Accreditation affects the families and 40% would like to learn more about the process. To learn more about NAEYC and what Accreditation means for families, staff, and the community visit www.naeyc.org/academy/interested/whyaccreditation.

To read the complete survey, see an attached copy.

Our "Back to School Night and Ice Cream Social" is coming up, on **Thursday August 7, 6:30 -7:30 PM**. The evening will start in Criswell Hall, at 6:30 PM, and end with a visit to the classrooms. Ice cream will be provided by the school, and families are asked to bring a topping or additional treat to share. To help with this event, please see the Ice Cream Social Sign-Up sheet, at the Sign In/Out Table. Classrooms will be open so you can learn more about what is happening with your child at school and you can ask questions about what you can expect in the coming year. We will also be sharing how you can help our school, through the "E-Script" program, by shopping at Vons and Macys. There will be information about how you can also be involved with our **Seventh Annual Family Fun Day, on Saturday, October 11, 11:00 AM-1:30 PM**. This event helps provide funds to purchase classroom supplies. *Parent participation is the key to our school's success!!*

Thank you for coming to our Work Day: Tom Egan, Bernie Hawkins, Susan and Mary Thronson.

AGUMCC WISH LIST BOARD

If you see something on the Wish List Board (located in the entrance way, above the rocking chair), that you can help us with,, take the posted note off the board and return the wished for item to the office.

A Few Current Items Include:

Extra Crib sheets

THANK YOU for bringing your ink cartridges for the staff to recycle. Do you have a computer at work or home? Staff earn \$1 for every used cartridges you bring in; up to \$20 per month. The money is used to buy various supplies for the office and classrooms. The container for the ink cartridges is located next to the Sign-In/Out table.

Theme for The Month: "I Am Special"

- Help us to get to know your family better by completing your child's family collage. This is a wonderful activity that bridges the relationship between school and home. Please let your teacher know if you have not received your collage poster board.



Important Dates to Remember

- Friday, August 1 - Staff Development School Spirit Day! Don't forget to wear green. **SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 3:30 PM**
- Thursday, August 7 - Back to School Night & Ice Cream Social 6:30 PM
- Thursday, August 21 - Planning Meeting for Family Fun Day, 6:30 PM
- Monday, September 1 - **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR Labor Day**
- Friday, September 5 - Staff Development. School Spirit Day! Don't forget to wear green. **SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 3:30 PM**

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

July has been an exciting month of getting to know all of our new friends and families. The children have had a great time in dramatic play, pretending to work at a travel agency. They have gone on airplane rides around the world, train rides to go see family, and trips in a car to go see the animals on our big map. The children have also enjoyed "Share Time". They really love sharing and talking in front of the class. Feel free to have your child bring in a share item, each day they attend, to help further their communication skills, in front of their classmates. When we start our focus on letters, we will encourage your child to bring in a share item that starts with the letter we are focusing on. For example, for the letter 'A', he/she could bring an alligator. In August, the theme is "I Am Special". We will be sending home new poster boards for you to provide a new or updated family collage. The children will have the opportunity to share their collage with everyone, in front of the



class. We will also start working on "Letter Recognition" and the focus letters for the month will be 'A', 'B' and 'C'. We will also start working on "Number Recognition." I would like

to remind everyone to read through your Pre-K information packets. It is full of valuable information that could answer many questions you may have about the Pre-K program. Finally always feel free to talk to either Ms. Rebecca or myself, if you have any questions or concerns. This interaction is very important to the both of us. ~ Ms Tresha

Ms. Kassie and Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

July was a "welcome back to school" month and saying "Hello" to old and new friends. It was also a transitional time and learning new ways of being independent. I filled in while Ms. Kassie became Mrs. Meyers and had a nice honeymoon. August is the month of learning how "I Am Special." We will weigh and measure and learn more about ourselves and our families. We will focus on language and expressing ourselves when we experience the many emotions each child goes through. We will continue to be creative, use our fine/gross motor skills, and build up our self esteem. In our "Fruit of the Spirit" and "Moral Teaching" curriculum, we will learn about Zacchaeus, from the Bible, and during our "Time With Pastor David". We will also learn what "Goody Bear" says about Trustworthiness and how we can be Trustworthy. ~ Ms. Mary (Substituting for Ms. Kassie)

April and Ms. Maddy's Toddlers

At the end of July, we sadly said goodbye to Ms. Jill and we are now welcoming Ms. Maddy back in to the classroom. July was full of getting to know new families, children that were new to the program and welcoming back children who graduated from Cindy Bo's class! In July, we focused on learning about the classroom and school rules. We talked about being safe and kind with our hands, feet and our words. We also went to the zoo! The children were able to play with different animal figures and even act like those

animals! Our classroom became a very wild bunch! You can see pictures of what happened during the month, by looking at the binder, kept by the family communication board, or by signing up to receive emails of the monthly pictures/write up. Please remember that, if you would like to receive this email and other emails about things occurring in Room 2, then you must sign the email permission slip and return it to us, first. This form was sent out at the beginning of July. If you need another one, please contact Ms. April. In August we will be focusing on the theme "All about me!" For Room 2, we are asking each family to bring in a picture of their family and also a picture of their pets. We will be making a "Family Book" and "Pet Book", with these pictures, to put in the library. These books will enable the children to share the special people in their lives, including pets, with their peers. These pictures can also be emailed to the classroom email. The children will also have the opportunity to share these pictures during group time. Please have these pictures turned in no later than August 18th so we can get the books laminated, bound and in the library for the children to use. Thank you! ~ Ms. April

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

What a wonderful way to start the new school year! With the low teacher-child ratios, in the Young Toddler room, during the month of July, I had the opportunity to bond with and develop a special relationship with each of my current five toddlers. We look forward to another child joining our group, which will add to our already special class group dynamics. As a way of getting to know each other better, our theme for the month of August will be "I Am Special". In addition to a focus on our similarities, differences and what makes us special, our group will be "Going to the Zoo". The children will have the opportunity to use wild animal play figures, stuffed animals, look through a variety of wild animal books and, of course, pretend to be these animals (noisy sounds and all)! I will pay attention to and do my best to foster their natural desire to discover and learn. Once again, I am very thankful for the opportunity I have to spend time with your children and the privilege of developing a relationship with you, their families. ~ Cindy Bo



STORY TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR

Pastor David is going to read **Luke 19: 1- 10** from the Beginning Bible. It's a story about **Zacchaeus**.

Goodie Bear is going to share our moral teaching: TRUSTWORTHY.

This special time will be on Wednesday August 6 and Thursday August 7 in the narthex at 9:15 to 9:40