

# Children's Center Chronicle

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

## 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 Christmas 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 David Bauer who ran the sound for the program.

2014 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 and continue to guide the staff as they 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 Sacramento. Mark your calendar because school will be closed on Thursday, March 3 and Friday, March 4 for the staff to attend. The first event is a "Pizza Dinner and Regatta Painting Party", on Friday, January 30 at 6:30 PM. This event is to prepare for our "Rain Gutter Regatta Races" in February. The "Pizza Dinner" tickets are \$5 a plate and you can purchase your regatta boat, ahead of time or 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 "Taco Bar Dinner and Rain Gutter Regatta Races" on Friday, February 27. 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. However, we do have a 30 day written notice policy, that is required, for families needing to make changes regarding their child care needs. 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 19 - School is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.  
Friday, January 30 - Pizza Dinner and Regatta Painting Party Fundraiser at 6:30 PM  
Friday, January 30 - 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.

### TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR

This month, Pastor David's story, from in the Beginning Bible, will be "Fish for Breakfast" (John 21). Goodie Bear's "Fruit of the Spirit" message will be about "Joy". This special time will be on **Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 7 & 8, 9:15 AM, in the Church Narthex.**

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

WOW! December went by quickly! I can't believe it. I hope everyone had a great holiday with your families and friends. The Christmas 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 2015, our Pre-K class focus is on "Our 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 'O', 'P', and 'Q'. 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 basis. 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! December was so busy and it flew by so quickly. We practiced and prepared for our Christmas Program, as well as learned about family traditions. We want to thank everyone who participated in our See's 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 introducing 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, and we will be using basic shapes in matching and sorting games as well. Blessings to all for a great New Year. Welcome 2015! This will be a great year! Truly,

~ Ms. Shirley

### Congratulations to Ms. Kassie.

She graduated from Arizona State University December 19, with her **Bachelors in Family and Human Studies with a minor in Sociology**.

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

It's a New Year and I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I would like to start off the new year by saying "Thank you" to all the

families who volunteered to make playdough and help with our laundry last month; your help is greatly appreciated. If you wish to help with these classroom needs, the sign-up sheet is on our communication board. The Christmas Program was wonderful. All the kids practiced really hard and it was such a great show. Thank you to all the families that made it possible. In the month of December, the toddlers had a great time making gingerbread ornaments, discussing presents and shapes. The children really enjoyed decorating the class Christmas tree, as well as "writing letters" and pretending to deliver mail. They also really enjoyed the nativity set and had fun singing "Happy Birthday Jesus". We shared traditions and songs, all month long. For the month of January, we will be focusing on winter animals and signs of winter, following our theme of "Our Winter World". The Fruit of the Spirit, this month, is "Joy". The shape of the month will be a crescent and the colors we are focusing on are black and white. ~ Ms. Claudia

### 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 Christmas Program. The children did a great job of dancing around the stage, with their scarves, to "Happy Birthday 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 2015 and I anticipate a great year together with this very special group. I want to welcome Sully (brother of Kinsey, in the older toddler group) and his 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. 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 an exceptional New Year! ~ Cindy Bo

### Many Thanks

- Thank you to Adeline for faithfully 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.