

# Children's Center Chronicle

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

## Message from Ms. Maddy:

**The Family Survey Spring 2015 Results are in.** 100% of families surveyed felt that their child was well cared for and that their child was happy and enjoyed participating in our program. 77% of families were "Very Satisfied" and 23% were "Satisfied". According to the survey, 96% of families chose our program for socialization, 92% chose us for the age-appropriate curriculum and 58% chose us because of work. A couple of the comments families wrote were: "Excellent program, very happy", "I feel my son is thriving in this program, I'm not sure why, but imagine that the staff makes him feel loved and proud of himself"

The most popular events families participated in last year were the Family Fun Day in October, our Holiday Program in December, the Pizza and Boat Painting event in January, and the Taco Dinner and Regatta Race event in February. Family involvement is key to our program's success. The areas families noted there can be improvement were in the areas of "Parent Involvement" and "Better Communication". When asking families how they would like to be involved, 84% said they would participate in socials and fundraising events; 58% would help outside the classroom; and only 1% wanted to help inside the classroom.

88% of families, that turned in the survey, participated in Parent/Teacher Conferences. All of those families found their child's conference was informative. They also felt their child achieved his/her goals and was ready to move forward.

65% of 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 families and 35% 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](http://www.naeyc.org/academy/interested/whyaccreditation). A complete copy of this survey is available on our website.

Our "Back to School Night and Ice Cream Social" is coming up on **Thursday August 13th, 6:30-7:30 PM**. Please bring your child to his/her classroom, then come to Criswell Hall. There I will give an overview of what you can expect in the coming year and how you can participate in the "E-Script", Labels for Education, and the Amazon Smiles programs. I will also share how you can get involved in our **Eighth Annual Family Fun Day, scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 11:00 AM-1:30 PM**. This event helps provide funds to purchase supplies and materials for our classroom. *Family participation is key to our school's success!!* At 7:00 PM, the classrooms will be open. This is a good time to ask teachers questions and learn more about what your child will be doing at school in the coming year. Ice cream will be served in the courtyard. 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.

**Our Work Day was a success!!** I greatly appreciated the many hands that came out to help. **Thank you family members and friends:** Michael Doremus, Travis Kroeker, Ryun Myers, Brian Phillips, Stacey Smith, Niki and Cameron Stephens, Robert Thronson, Susan Thronson, Peter Quaglino, and staff members Cindy Bo, Ms. Claudia, Ms. Kassie, Ms. Mary, and Ms. Swati!

### AGUMCC WISH LIST BOARD

The Wish List Board is above the rocking chair. If you see something that you can help us with, take the posted note off the board and return the item, with the note, to the office.

#### A Few Current Items Include:

- \*Crib Sheets and Blankets \* A Crib Mattress
- \* Baby wipes \* Clorox Wipes

**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 cartridge 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 on the little table to the left of 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 7 - Staff Development. School Spirit Day! Wear your AGUMCC T-Shirt. **SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3:30 PM**
- Thursday, August 13 - Back to School Night & Ice Cream Social, 6:30 PM
- Thursday, August 20 - Planning Meeting for Family Fun Day, 6:30 PM
- Friday, September 4 - Staff Development. School Spirit Day! Wear your AGUMCC T-Shirt. **SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3:30 PM.**
- Monday, September 7 - **SCHOOL IS CLOSED** for Labor Day.

### Ms Kassie and Ms. Rebecca's Pre-K Classes

Hello, to all of our new Pre-K students. Rebecca and I look forward to a new year full of learning and fun. We are sad and happy to say "good-bye" to the soon to be Kindergarteners as they move on to their new schools, this month. It has been exciting to see how much they have grown during their time here at AGUMCC. Our theme for this month is "I Am Special". We are going to explore what makes us each unique and alike. We will learn about each other's families too. If you are able to make play-dough and/or do the laundry for our class, *please sign up on the sign-up sheet*,



located next to your family folders. We are looking forward to "Back to School Night". It will be a time when we can get to know each of you better and share our classroom with you.

~ Ms. Kassie

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

July was a "Welcome Back to School" month and a month of saying "Hello" to old and new friends. It was a transitional time and a time of learning new ways of being independent. Ms. Shirley and I are co-teaching, the preschool class this year. We both love singing with our children. August will be a month of learning how "I Am Special." We will be learning about each other, including weighing and measuring ourselves, as well as learning about our families. We will focus on language and how to express ourselves when we experience the many emotions each of us have each day. We will continue to have opportunities to be creative, use our fine/gross motor skills, and build up our self-esteem. Ms. Shirley and I hope to see all our families at "Back to School Night", where we can get to know each other better. Our "Fruit of the Spirit" and "Moral Teaching" curriculum last month, we learned about being "Responsible". During "Story Time with Ms. Maddy", we learned how Samuel, was a great listener and responsible. In August, we will learn what "Goodie Bear" has to say about being "Trustworthy". Please continue to check your child's family folder and cubby, for art projects, important information, etc. We are looking forward to this new month.

~ Ms. Tresha

### Ms. Claudia and Mrs. Swati's Toddlers

In July Mrs. Swati and I had a wonderful time getting to know new and old friends and families. The children explored their surroundings and got to know Brownie, the rabbit, Lemon, the gecko and our Japanese fighting fish, Gum Gum III. The children enjoy finding their apple on the birthday tree and practicing each other's names. In August

we will be learning about how "I Am Special". We will compare and recognize each other's individualities and uniqueness. The "Moral Teaching" will be "Trustworthy". We will also be learning the color yellow, the number two, and the shape is a square. We could really use some volunteers to help with making playdough and doing our class laundry. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the sign-up sheet, located on our classroom Family Information Board. Your help will be greatly appreciated! Please continue to check your child's cubby and your family folder, daily, for art work, soiled clothes, etc. We look forward to getting to know you a bit more during "Back to School Night" and to seeing pictures of all our families, as Family Photo Collages are brought in.

~ Ms. Claudia

### Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

We had a wonderful start to the new school year! During the month of July, I had the opportunity to develop a special relationship and bond with each of the four toddlers in our Young Toddler group. I already see a very special class group dynamic developing, as well. The children are learning each other's names, showing interest in and seeking opportunities to interact with one another and expressing joy as



they play together. 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 for the privilege of developing a relationship with you, their families. Hope to see

### **STORY TIME WITH MS. MADDY & GOODIE BEAR**

Ms. Maddy will read **Luke 19: 1-10** from the Beginning Bible. It's a story about **Zacchaeus**.

Goodie Bear will share our moral teaching: **TRUSTWORTHY.**

This special time will be on Wednesday and Thursday, August 5 and 6, in the church narthex, from 9:15 to 9:40 am.