

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center 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 "Christmas Program" were amazed at how wonderful the children shared the joy of Christmas cheer through traditional songs. Thank you to the staff and the children who spent many days practicing their songs for this event. 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 celebration. I would also like to thank David Bauer who ran the sound for the program.

2015 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. The first event will be another "Parent's Night Out" on Saturday, January 23, from 4-8 PM. The cost is \$25, per child, for four hours of child care (see the attached flier for details). Our second event will be the "Taco Bar Dinner and Rain Gutter Regatta Races" on Friday, February 27. The evening will start at 6:30 PM, with dinner, and the races will begin around 7:00 PM. 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 calendars now because school will be closed, so staff are able to attend the conference, Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1). These events provide our families with another opportunity to have fun, build new friendships, and strengthen the heart of our school community.

The Fall Survey results are in. 95% of the Families were overall "very satisfied" and 5% were "satisfied" with our program. The number one reason why families chose our program was for the "age appropriate curriculum" and the second two reasons were for our "low child to teacher ratio" and for "socialization". (See the attached summary for details). Thank you to everyone who turned in their survey.

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.

MANY THANKS

To our Children's Center Chronicle Editor, Cindy Bo. She gives of her time and talent each month to make this newsletter possible.



Theme For The Month:

Discovering Our Winter Wonderland,
Arctic Animals, and Weather

Dates To Remember

Monday, January 18- School is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Saturday, January 23 - "Parent's Night Out" from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.

Friday, January 29 - Scholastic Book 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 MARY & GOODIE
BEAR WITH MS. SHIRLEY**

This month, Pastor Mary will share the story, "Fish for Breakfast" (John 21), from the Beginning Bible. Goodie Bear's "Fruit of the Spirit" message will be about "Joy". This special time will be on **Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 6 & 7, 9:10 AM**, in the Church Narthex.

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

WOW! December went by quickly! I can't believe it. I hope everyone had a great holiday with family 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 2016, our Pre-K class focus will be "Our Winter World", watching the weather, and learning about emotions, with special attention to the emotion of joy. The letters for this month will be 'K', 'L' and 'M'. 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 look forward to an exciting New Year of growth and development.

~ Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Shirley and Ms. Tresha'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 'N', 'O', 'P'. 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 2016! This will be a great year! Truly,

~ Ms. Shirley



We need you!!

The AGUMCC Board is looking for **Parent Representative(s)** to serve on our board. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, 1:30-2:00 PM. If you are interested or have any questions, see Maddy.

Ms. Claudia and Mrs. Swati's Toddlers

Well, it is hard to believe that 2016 is already upon us. December was filled with lots of holiday fun and much learning about the different holidays. Welcome back! We hope that you had a great holiday season with friends and family. I would like to start the year by thanking all of you who helped us make playdough and do our class laundry. Ms. Claudia and I really appreciate your efforts. In December, we celebrated and learned about a variety of traditions. We talked about Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan and other holidays that are celebrated. We had many opportunities to celebrate differences, by sharing our holidays, and talking about how we are alike, yet different. Thank you to all the families who turned in their surveys and shared about their cultures. The children had fun decorating our classroom Christmas tree and enjoyed dressing up like a Mail Carrier, delivering mail and presents around the classroom. We also were very busy practicing for our Christmas Program, which we hope you enjoyed! The children had fun singing "Jingle Bells", during the celebration. We will now begin our journey into "Discovering Our Winter Wonderland" as we begin our theme for January. The children will be learning about different winter animals, such as penguins and polar bears, and will make ice blocks and glaciers to explore and have fun breaking down in the sensory tub. They will also be exploring pinecones, in the science area. The children are forming new bonds and friendships and many happy faces are seen in the classrooms, and on the playgrounds, each day. I wish all of you a successful and fun-filled 2016 ahead!!! ~ Ms. Swati

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 presenting gifts to the "Baby Jesus", jingling their bells and looking adorable in their special holiday outfits. Also, Thanks to all who supported us through the sale of See's Candy. We appreciate it! It is 2016 and I anticipate a great year together with this very special group. 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