

Children's Center Chronicle

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

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.

2016 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 which continues to guide our staff. Also, our program will be participating in the "Quality Counts" program, provided through the Child Care Planning Council. This program will offer our staff continued education opportunities, as well as stipends for their professional and educational achievements.

We have two upcoming family fun events planned. The first event will be a "Parent's Night Out" on Saturday, January 28, from 5-8 PM. The cost will be \$20 per child, for three hours of child care (see the attached flier for details). Our second event will be the "Pizza Dinner and Rain Gutter Regatta Races", on Friday, February 24. This event will start at 6:30 PM, with dinner, and the races will begin around 7:00 PM. Both events will help raise funds needed for staff to attend the "California Association for the Education of Young Children" (CAEYC) conference in Ontario, California. (Mark your calendars because school will be closed, for staff to attend this conference, Thursday and Friday, March 23 and 24.) In addition, these events provide our families with a wonderful time to have fun, build new friendships, and strengthen the heart of our school community.

The Fall Survey results are in. 80% of surveys collected noted that families were "very satisfied" and 20% were "satisfied", overall, 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 the environments: both inside and outside. (See the attached summary, for details). Thank you to everyone who turned in their survey.

Special Announcement

Families who are members of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande will receive a 10% discount to-

MANY THANKS

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

Dates To Remember

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

Saturday, January 28 - "Parent's Night Out" from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. See flier for more info.

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, AND
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

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

Wow December just flew by! The Christmas program was great! It was fun to watch the children show off all their hard work and practice, for this special time. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! For the month of January we will be working with the letters 'O', 'P', and 'Q'. Please continue to bring share items that begin with these sounds. This month we'll be exploring our "Winter World". We will be discussing weather phenomenon and how the world is different during the winter months. Also, we will be discussing "Trips and Travel". With all the holiday traveling, this has been the topic of many conversations. Our dramatic play will be a travel agency, to go along with the children's interest. I look forward to the New Year and watching the children grow and mature into kindergarteners.

~ Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Jayna and Ms. Tresha's Preschool Class

Happy New Year and welcome back Ms. Tresha. 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. If you have not turned in your *Family Heritage/Tradition Survey*, please do. The children are sharing the information and items you have provided, during our Share Time. This is a wonderful activity to help build the relationships between school and home. We want to thank everyone who participated in our See's Candy sales. In January, with the changing of the weather, we will be charting the different types of weather 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' and 'P'. The colors we are focusing on this month are black and white, and we will be using basic shapes in matching and sorting games, as well. Blessings to all as we welcome in the New Year of 2017!

~ Ms. Maddy

Ms. Shirley and Mrs. Swati's Toddler

Well, it is hard to believe that 2017 is already here. 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 those families that helped make playdough, helped out with our class laundry and some who even helped us wrap present boxes. Ms. Shirley and I really appreciate your efforts. In December, we celebrated and learned about a variety of traditions. Children had fun decorating the Christmas tree. They enjoyed dressing up like a mail-carrier and delivering mail and presents around the classroom. We talked about Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan and other holidays, that are celebrated this time of year. There were lots of opportunities to talk about how we are alike, yet different, and to celebrate those differences, by sharing our holiday traditions. Thank you to all the families who turned in their family heritage surveys and shared about their cultures. We also were very busy practicing for our Christmas Program, that we hope you enjoyed! Children had fun singing "Jingle Bells" during the celebration. New bonds and friendships are being formed and many happy faces can be seen on the playground and in the classrooms each day. This month we will be talking about winter. We will make ice blocks and "glaciers", for children to explore, they will have fun working on breaking through an ice block, as a sensory activity, and will be learning about different winter animals, like penguins and polar bears. Children will also be exploring pine cones in the science area. We will be encouraging the children to take on special job responsibilities such as "Line Leader", "Teacher Helper", etc. I wish you all a successful and fun filled 2017 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 dancing around the stage, to "Joy to the World", 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 2017 and I anticipate a great year together, with the ever special gift of... At the end of the year, the Young Toddlers will have more time exploring foods, different ways to play and different ways to

Parent Night Out
Saturday, January 28, 2017
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Cost is \$20 per child
Rsvp Required