

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com/agumcc.html MARCH 2017

Message from Ms. Maddy

The Rain Gutter Regatta was an evening of good family fun. Thank you to the families and staff who helped make the event a success. Many hands make light work. The money raised from this event will help the staff attend the 2017 CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in Ontario, this month. Please note that **school will be closed, Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24**, so staff can participate in this wonderful professional growth opportunity.

Spring is coming and it's time for renewing our gardens. Children will be very involved in this process, as they cultivate the ground, bring plants to plant, and watch them grow. The gardens are an important part of our learning experience, here at AGUMCC. The children learn to care for and appreciate the wonders of life and the delicate balance of nature. The garden also provides science, at its best, with the budding of foliage, the buzzing of insects, the blooming of flowers, and the harvesting of fruits and vegetables.

Please join us for a **"Work Day" on Saturday, April 8th, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon.** We will be cleaning up both of our play yards and preparing the garden beds for planting. There will be a sign up sheet, for the "Work Day", located on the Sign In/Out Table. Treats and childcare will be FREE and available. If you have any questions, see Ms. Maddy.

ITS TIME TO RENEW OUR GARDENS

We invite you to bring a plant. Any non-toxic plant, that you would like to bring, will be a great addition to our play yards. Please check with your child's teacher to find out their scheduled class planting days.

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for March: Gentleness

At school, children are often reminded of the importance of being gentle with things and each other. We will have a special focus on gentleness, as we care for plants and talk about farm animals this month. We are encouraged in the book of Philippians to...

... "Let your gentleness be known to all men" (Phil. 4:5)

Sign up now! "Positive Discipline" is here. This six week book study will be held on Tuesday nights March 7 thru April 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Together, we will be reading the "Positive Discipline" book, by Dr. Jane Nelsen. It offers guidance techniques of connection before correction with kindness and firmness. Positive Discipline provides practical ways to change lives, by reducing stress, while raising responsible, respectful, and resourceful children. **This series will be led by Ms. Maddy, who is a Certified Positive Discipline Educator.** Registration is \$40, per person, or \$70 per couple. Sorry, childcare is not available. Registration includes the Positive Discipline book and materials.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT UP COMING EVENTS * ENROLLMENT TIME *

March

- Tuesday Nights, March 7- April 11 - **POSITIVE DISCIPLINE SERIES** from 6:00 -8:00PM, in Criswell Hall.
- Friday, March 3 - **Staff Development and Spirit Day.** There is no "Extended Care" on this Day.
- Wednesday, March 15 - **REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CURRENT FAMILIES.**
- Thursday March 23 and Friday, March 24 - **School will be Closed for Staff Development. Staff will be attending the CAEYC Conference in Ontario.**

April

- Saturday, April 8 - **"WORK DAY"** We will be working in the gardens, 9:00 - 12:00 noon.
- Wednesday, April 12 - **HERITAGE POT LUCK LUNCH.** This is a minimum day. **School is closed at noon.**
- Thursday April 13 and Friday April 14 - **School will be closed for Easter Break.**
- Thursday, April 20 - **AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE, 6:30-7:30 PM.**
- Sunday, April 30 - **CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY - Art Show and Ice Cream Social 10:30 am -12 noon.**

March is the time to register your child for the next school year;

July 3, 2017 - June 29, 2018.

Registration Information will be going out this month. The deadline, for current families to register, is Wednesday March 15.

Families on our "Waiting List" may register, starting Monday, April 3 and general enrollment will begin Monday, May 1.

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

We had a very busy month! The children all enjoyed our community helper visitors and learning about their jobs. I would like to thank everyone who was able to participate in our Friendship Lunch. It is always fun to get together, talk, have food and get to know each other better. For the month of March, we will be exploring how things grow. Please bring in seeds so that we can plant and grow them and transplant them into our school garden. I will also be introducing the students to some various artists from the past, I call it "Meet the Masters". Some of the artists I feature include Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh. We will be continuing with our letter practice and name writing in preparation for kindergarten. Finally, start thinking about signing your children up for kindergarten and after school care, if you need it. THE SOONER THE BETTER! ~Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Jayna and Ms. Tresha's Preschool Class

In February, we really enjoyed all the visits from our Community Helpers, it was a busy month. A big "Thank you" to all of our families who attended and brought items for our friendship party, as well as to those who came to our Regatta event. This month, we will be exploring farm life, and learning how things grow on a farm. For our nature collection, please bring in seeds that we can plant and grow. Our "Fruit of the Spirit" focus will be on "Gentleness". I am sure Tim and Lucy will have a lot to say about gentleness. In addition, we will continue learning about our alphabet, the letters R, S, and T, as well as practicing counting. We will also begin our assessments this month, in preparation for parent conferences in May. A friendly reminder to check your child's family file; lots of great information. ~Ms. Tresha

Ms. Shirley and Mrs. Swati's Toddler

During the month of February we had a lot of fun learning about problem solving, letters and the moon. We also spent time talking about all the special people we love, both family members and friends. We talked about different people who work in our community and we had lots of visitors: firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and an ophthalmologist.

Thanks, also, to the families who shared their professions with our class. Our Friendship Party was a great success. The children really enjoyed having their families at school. Many also enjoyed racing their boats at the Rain Gutter Regatta. It was fun to see you all at this Pizza Night event. March will include some wonderful projects, as well as a focus on the changing weather; clouds, wind and rain. This all ties right in with the coming of "Spring" and our continued celebration of growing, gardening, sprouting seeds, and eating healthy. This month we will begin learning about how things grow on a farm, as well as learning about various farm animals. We will have special visitors, including chickens, horses, and a baby pig. Let us know if you would like to take part in these experiences. Our "Fruit of the Spirit" this month is "Gentleness". Ms. Swati and I still need families who can volunteer their help to make playdough and do our class laundry, once a month. The Classroom Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet is on the board, by the family folders. ~Ms. Shirley

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

I would like to start by welcoming Shaniah, who just began her Early Childhood Education lab experience with our class. She will be working with me as her mentor on Fridays, from 8:00-2:00, through the middle of May. We appreciate the special care and attention she has already shown to our Young Toddler group. Welcome! To those of you who were able to join our group and bring food for our Friendship Breakfast, thank you for participating and creating a special experience for your children! A special "Thanks" to Brooke Bates (Audrey's mom) and Larry (Aubrey's Papa) for their help with set up and to Kevin Bates (Audrey's dad), who joined Brooke and Larry in helping to clean up things at the end! We had an exciting month, with the opportunity to meet several special visitors, who came to share about the part they play in serving our community. Not all of the children are comfortable meeting these, sometimes "larger than life" figures, or checking out their special vehicles, yet are, none the less, given an opportunity to begin developing concepts about the important work they do. This month, we plan to help out with our school garden beds, by planting some new flowers and vegetables and tending them, when needed. This means time spent working with dirt and water; two things we know the children enjoy a lot. Thanks, so much, for all of your fundraising support, helping our staff to attend the professional conference (CAEYC), coming up, March 23-25. We really appreciate it! ~Cindy Bo

BIBLE TIME & GOODIE BEAR

Children will hear the story of "The Good Samaritan", from Luke 10:30-35, in the Beginning Bible. "Goodie Bear" will share a "Fruit of the Spirit" teaching on "Gentleness". Ask your child about this wonderful time, we will be sharing together, on **Wednesday and Thursday, March 1 and 2, at 9:05 AM, in the Church Narthex.**