

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com. January 2018

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, in preparation for this fun family event. THANK YOU to the families who brought goodies to share, after the program.

2017 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, we are participating in the "Quality Counts" program, provided through the San Luis Obispo Child Care Planning Council. This program will offer our staff continued education opportunities, as well as stipends for their professional and educational achievements.

The Fall Survey results are in. Overall, 92 % of the families were "very satisfied" and 8% were "satisfied", with our program. The two main reason why families chose our program was for socialization and our location. The second two reasons were for our "low child to teacher ratio" and the age appropriate curriculum. (**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 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.

BIBLE STORY AND GOODIE BEAR TIME

This month, we will share the story, "Fish for Breakfast", from the Beginning Bible, John 21. Goodie Bear's "Fruit of the Spirit" message will be about "Joy". This special time will be on **Wednesday & Thursday, January 4 & 5, at 9:05 AM**, in the Church Narthex.

Dates To Remember

Monday, January 15- School is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Friday, January 27 - 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.

Ms. Rebecca's & Ms. Maddy's Pre-K Class

Hi everybody! I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Program. The children worked very hard, learning the songs and learning to sing together. Also, for the month of December we started learning about the different animal habitats and which animals live where. We studied the rainforest, grassland, desert and the polar region. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday, with friends and family and a great start to the New Year. For January we will be working with the letters 'L', 'M', and 'N'. I look forward to the next inspired learning that will happen in the children's class room.

~ Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Jayna & Ms. Tresha's Preschool Class

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a fun filled holiday season. December was busy, with preparations for our Holiday Program, as well as anticipating all of the fun December traditions. We want to thank everyone who participated in the Sees' Candy sales. In January we will talk about weather and what animals do in the winter. We will also continue to introduce letters and their sounds. The letters we will be learning about this month will be 'L', 'M', and 'N.' Please remember to check your child's family folder. As the cold season approaches, please keep in mind that jackets/coats are very helpful to have and wear. Blessings to all for a great new year. Welcome 2018! This will be a great year! ~ Ms. Tresha

Ms. Shirley & Mrs. Swati's Toddler

Wow, it's hard to believe that 2018 is already here! We hope that you had a great holiday season with friends and family. In December, the children enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree. They dressed up as mail carriers, and delivered mail and presents around the classroom. We talked about Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan and other celebrations. The children enjoyed learning about a variety of traditions. Thank you to all the families who turned in their family heritage surveys, and shared about their cultures. It gave us opportunities to talk about how we are alike, yet different, and to celebrate those differences by sharing holiday traditions. The Christmas program

was a huge success, and the children were so excited as they sang "Jingle Bells". We hope you enjoyed it too. In January we will be talking about winter. We will make ice blocks for the children to explore. We will also talk about what animals do in the winter. Special job responsibilities will be given to the children, daily, starting this month. For example: line leader, teacher helper, light helper, etc.... Blessings to everyone as we celebrate this new year! ~ Ms. Shirley

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 bringing a gift out to the baby Jesus, drumming to "The Little Drummer Boy", jingling their bells to "Jingle 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 2018 and I anticipate a great year together, with this very special group. At the end of the year, the Young Toddlers were having fun identifying farm animals and the special figures that were part of our nativity set. They would get so excited to associate the animals with the sounds they make or to point out the nativity figures that were also being represented in the stories I read or songs we were singing. In January, I will pay attention to the groups interests and try to provide curriculum that is built upon them. We will likely notice changes in our outdoor environment, such as the effects of the wind and rain or changes in the clouds. As we witness some of God's awesome wonders, such as these, there is opportunity for the children to learn new vocabulary, learn about cause and effect, and more. I look forward to observing the children's joy, as we share these learning experiences together. Blessings to all for an exceptional New Year! ~ Cindy Bo

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114. We greatly appreciate it!!**