

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com December 2019

Message from Ms. Maddy

The Giving Celebration was wonderful!! Thank you to everyone who gave and participated in this special event. Many hands made light work, with set up, serving, and clean up. Also, at the celebration, were the ladies from **Five Cities Christian Women's' Food Pantry**. We presented them with the money that was collected during the month of November. They will use this money to purchase turkeys for the Christmas Baskets, which will be given to families in need in our community this season. Watch the fundraising board to find out how much money we collected. Every \$1 we contributed, was equivalent to \$10, at the Food Pantry. They were very thankful for all the money we were able to help collect for them.

This month, each family will receive a **"Family Heritage Information Sheet"**. This is another way we can work together to build the relationship between home and school. Please complete and return it to your child's teacher. This project will help us to learn more about your family and the traditions you may celebrate. If your family has a tradition, that you would like to share with your child's classmates, please make sure to speak to your child's teacher. We hope everyone feels welcomed and connected here, as we invite you to share your traditions with us.

We invite everyone to celebrate the season, by coming to our **"Children's Christmas Program"** on **Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 pm**. The Christmas Program will be held in the sanctuary and will last about 30 minutes. The program will be followed by a **"Treats and Goodies Social"** in Criswell Hall. The Sign-Up for the Social will be on the Sign-In/Out Table.

We are selling **See's Candy for the Holidays**. *Don't stand in the long line at the store; ORDER FROM US BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3*. The candy will be ready for you to pick up on Friday, December 13. This Fundraiser will help raise funds for our Staff's Professional Development.

On **Friday, December 20**, we will be having a **"Pajama Party"**. **This is also a Minimum Day and School closes at 12:00 noon**. Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. because it's a minimum day. School will be closed for **Christmas Break December 23-27, 2019**

I look forward to the **New Year**, fostering relationships with the children and families, supporting a dedicated staff, and providing quality care to the children in our program.

Dates To Remember

- **Friday, December 6- School Closes at 3:30, for Staff Development. It's SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY!** Show your school spirit and wear your AGUMCC T-shirt.
- **Thursday, December 12 - Children's Christmas Program & Social** at 6:30 PM, in the Church Sanctuary (Children arrive in classrooms at 6:15). Social to follow in Criswell Hall.
- **Friday, December 20 - Pajama Party Day and a Minimum Day.** Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school. **School will close at 12:00 noon.**
- **Monday through Friday, December 23-27 - School is closed for Christmas Break.**
- **Wednesday, January 1 - School is closed for New Years Day.**

Pennies for Turkeys

Thank you to all who gave their spare change in November, to help others in need in our community. This AGUMCC Community Service Project has been helping others since 2007. This year we raised \$ ____.

The total, to date, that we have raised for the Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry, is over **\$3,129.36.**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ THE CHRISTMAS STORY



★ "When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them." (Luke2:15-20)

in preparation for Kindergarten. We also have our "Guessing Can" and "Book Bag" that are each sent home, with a different child, every week. The Guessing Can may prompt discussions about letters and word knowledge. The Book Bag allows you to read with your child and have conversations about the book's characters and plot line. We encourage you to set aside time to do this with your child and return it to school in a timely manner so that other children may have an opportunity to take part. In our "SAVE" program we have also been having conversations regarding crosswalk safety, gun safety, and what to do when lost. Please begin practicing both your phone number and home address with your child so that they may learn the proper information to give when lost. Overall, lots of fun stuff happening in the Pre-K class and we look forward to what comes next! Feliz Navidad!

~Ms. Ashley

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Ms. Ashley and Ms. Rebecca's Pre-K Class

Hello Pre-K Families! The holiday season is upon us, and our students have become so overjoyed with all that the holiday season brings! In our class, we discussed what it means to be thankful and celebrate with those we love. Our students have shown so much enthusiasm that we have decided that we would love to host our own holiday party for our Pre-K school families. It is so wonderful to experience the unique interests that each of our students have expressed in their schoolwork. I truly believe that we have a group of compassionate and smart students that ask great questions as well as challenge each other's thoughts. Our snack and lunch times have become times in which Ms. Rebecca and I sit and admire the deep, thoughtful conversations among our Pre-K children. In our class, we have many opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning. We have begun putting out our "Sign-In Book" and we ask that during drop-off in the morning you take a few minutes to help your child practice writing their name, before joining us in the backyard. This both allows for a time of transition into the school day and helps your child practice writing their name, on a daily basis,

Ms. Andrea and Ms. Elizabeth's Preschool Class

We would like to warmly thank all the families for helping make the Giving Celebration a success!! The children and staff enjoyed the delicious soup that we made as a school family and delighted in bringing ingredients from home. We had so much fun in November, in addition to our celebration. With the chilly fall season finally approaching, we reflected on the weather changes in our environment. We also were introduced to a fun science concept of liquids and solids. The children delighted in experiencing sensory play with Oobleck, which is cornstarch and water, making a Non-Newtonian fluid, which also has the properties of a solid. We also introduced the letters G, H and I and the number 4. We mixed colors to make the color green and, with the letter G, we explored gophers. This has sparked the interest of the children in our garden. We made H shaped houses and, for the letter I, we made igloos and explored different types of homes. We spoke of being good friends to each other and about faithfulness to God. We look forward to more magical moments in the classroom as the holidays approach. ~ Ms. Elizabeth



BIBLE STORY & GOODIE BEAR TIME

We will read "The Good News", from the Beginning Bible, Luke 2:8-20. Goodie Bear and Ms. Shirley will share our

"Fruit of the Spirit" teaching on Peace. This wonderful time together will be shared on **Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 4 & 5, at 9:05 AM, in the Church Narthex.**



Ms. Shirley and Mrs. Swati's Toddlers

The holiday season is upon us and it is a very busy time in our classroom. One amazing thing that has caught your child's eye is the life cycle of the butterfly in our backyard. Inspired by their interest, we made caterpillars, in our classroom, out of egg cartons. The children have enjoyed bringing in donations for our "Pennies for Turkeys" project as well! We counted the money during group and let them know that it would buy a turkey for someone in need. It blesses us to give and to know how thankful others will be. Our Giving Celebration was a huge success! As we shared our soup together, we were able to see the tables decorated with the children's centerpieces, name placement cards and placemats. We hope that your Thanksgiving was extra blessed with all your loved ones. In December, we want to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. The children will be singing songs about baby Jesus and how important His birth was. This month we will be busy getting ready for our Christmas program. Christmas will be evident in our classroom as well. May your Christmas be blessed beyond measure. ~Ms. Shirley

Thank you to everyone who has purchased "**See's Candy**". The deadline to order is Tuesday, Dec. 3. The candy will be ready for pick up on Friday, Dec. 13. This fundraiser will be used for our Staff's Professional Development.



Merry Christmas

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

I hope those of you who were able to attend, enjoyed our Giving Celebration this year. It was so nice to share that time with you and your children. Thank you, also, to all those who donated spare change for our "Pennies for Turkeys" jar. The children enjoyed helping to fill our jar with all the change they brought in. During the month of November, the Young Toddlers continued to demonstrate how much they have learned about our class routines and about each other. They have been noticing and pointing out pictures of themselves and others on Family Photo Boards, our class pony pictures and on individual cubbies. Many of them are working hard at saying the names of others in our group, as well. By pointing to or doing their best to say a name, they will make sure we include the names of everyone, during our name songs/chants and as we thank God "for our friends", before meal times, too. All of the children have been enjoying our "Music and Movement" times, playing instruments, swinging scarves and imitating actions called out in song lyrics. They have especially enjoyed expressing various emotions as we danced to the "Feelings" song or shouted "No!" during the "Sammy" song. They are also showing a lot more interest in books during "Song & Story Time", as well as on their own. This month we will explore, a little deeper, into the foods we eat and enjoy. Food is often a big part of our family traditions and holidays, which makes this a relevant topic, extending from the children's interests. I would like to invite you to share your special holiday traditions (pictures, foods, stories, etc.) with our class, if you'd like. At the beginning of this month, we will be practicing "Jingle Bells", to share with you at our Christmas Program. I hope you all can make it. It is always a special time of getting together and rejoicing over each one of the precious children God has placed in our lives. Merry Christmas!

~ Cindy Bo