

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

May 2009

Message from Maddy Spring has been a very busy time for our staff. We attended the CAEYC Conference in Sacramento, planned the Annual Spring BBQ and now are preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our teachers had a wonderful and inspiring time at the conference. It fostered new ideas for all. The BBQ was hard work but a GREAT success. We even found a few ways to make it better next year. Thanks to all the volunteer help from the staff, families, board members, and church staff. **Check out the great pictures from this fun event at worshipweekly.com.** We raised \$2,008 from this event which will help us buy new materials for the classrooms. See the wish list of items the teachers are hoping to get for their classrooms. The book fair was also enjoyed by many. We earned \$200 worth of new books for our school library. Next up is **Parent Conferences**. This is an **excellent opportunity** for your child's teacher to share with you the many experiences and milestones your child has had throughout the year. After attending your conference, please return your survey. Our school strives to be the best it can be. The surveys let us know how we are doing and where or how we can improve our program (*The surveys can be anonymous*). Thank you for your continued support in making this the best school for children. **School Improvements:** Sun Shine Mountain has arrived. This is a play space, designed for our youngest children but can be enjoyed by many. We will be installing a sandbox in the courtyard to add more fun for everyone. Please watch for a work day to help with this installation. We have a new sign and sitting space **thanks to TJ Perrin**. He is a Boy Scout that chose our program for his **Eagle Scout Project**. His project provides a landmark to the entrance of our program and a sitting space for families to sit and socialize outside. It makes a wonderful addition to our growing school.

Thank you to all of the staff, families and church members who volunteered to help make this year's Children's Center Sunday a great success! The children were wonderful as they sang the "Hip-Hip-Hip-Hippopotamus" song. Many raved about the great tasting BBQ chicken (Thanks BBQers!). Also, we had a lot of interest in the books being sold at the book fair which meant lots of free books for the school. **An extra big thanks to Gen Yamada for coordinating that week long effort!**

Theme for May



Down at the Pond

Show your School Spirit!

We are placing a T shirt and sweat shirt order May 8th. Don't delay! We need to have them before the end of May.

Congratulations to Lucas (Room 1) whose little sister was born on March 19. **Danni Hope Hernandez** weighed 7lb. 11 oz. and was 19 inches long. Congratulations to Mom and Dad, Jessica Rodlin and Luke too!

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for May Self-Control

There are several favorite children's books that we will read to remind the children of how they can learn to control themselves when dealing with strong emotions, including *When I Was Little* by Jamie Lee Curtis and *When Sophie Gets Angry-Really, Really Angry...* by Molly Bang.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and **self-control**" [Gal 5:23](#)

Dates to remember

May is the month for Parent-Teacher Conferences - Sign-up with your child's Teacher/Caregiver for your individual meeting date and time.

- Sunday May 10 - **Happy Mother's Day!**
- May 18 -22 - **Teacher Appreciation Week**
- Thursday, May 21 - **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** at 12:00
- Friday May 15 - Scholastic Book orders are due
- Monday May 25 - School is Closed for **Memorial Day**
- Friday May 29 - **Pre-K Graduation** in the United Methodist Church Sanctuary at 6:30PM (Children arrive @ 6:15)

Ms. Katelynn and Ms. Maddy's Pre-K Class

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make Children Center Sunday, BBQ, and Book Fair such a success! Next is Parent Conferences. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to show you the many experiences and milestones your child has had at school. There will be a sign-up sheet for conference times located on the circle table inside the classroom. To conclude our traditional session, on May 28, at 6:30 PM, we will be having our Pre-K graduation program. Family and friends are welcome to join us in this celebration and fun event. *Children need to arrive at 6:15, in the Pre K classroom, to prepare for this event.* Also, we would like all of the children to wear our green United Methodist Children's Center T-Shirt with white letters. Please make sure your T-shirt orders are in by May 8 to ensure we have a unified and memorable moment for our graduation ceremony. Additionally, there will be a sign-up sheet for families who would like to help us with refreshments.

This year has been such a joy for us and all of the children will forever hold a special place in our hearts. We will all miss those children who will be heading off to their bright futures in Kindergarten. Thank you again to all the families for your unwavering support and caring throughout this year!

- Ms. Katelynn

Ms. Nichole and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

It was great seeing all the families come to Children's Center Sunday. It was a lot of fun practicing the Hippo song. The children in room three have been learning about different bugs and parts of bugs. We have continued to work on sorting of different objects, and recognizing and creating patterns. We have collected ants for our ant farm and have watched the stages of ladybugs. Now we will be exploring "Down at the Pond. We will be adding tadpoles to our classroom and watching them change into frogs. We will also be looking at the different animals you can find at the pond.



- Ms. Nichole

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers

We were so fortunate to attend the CAEYC conference again this year. It was a great time for bonding as a staff, carpooling to and from Sacramento, sharing meals together, and reflecting on all we learned through the workshops we attended over the two-day conference. I appreciated the insights and research of presenters supporting and valuing the importance of play in the lives of children. The Keynote Speaker, Becky Bailey, reminded us that what children need most, in order to learn, are "connections on the outside". They need eye contact, touch, our presence, and playful situations. "Connections on the outside create neural connections on the inside." Extending our theme of "Spring Time Discovery", following the interest and joy of our outdoor discoveries to include "Down at the Pond", helps us to take advantage of what we know about how the children in our program can get the most out of their school experience. We were blessed to observe the process of our caterpillars turning into butterflies and hope to observe pollywogs changing into frogs over the course of this month. How exciting it is to watch the ladybugs helping to nurture our garden or to follow a lizard as it runs in to the bushes and to hear a child ask another "Where did it go?" God's wonders are never-ending!

- Cindy Bo

Ms. Lori's Young Toddlers

Well, it's that time again for parent teacher conferences. Remember that they start Friday May 1st and end Thursday May 14th in room 2. For those families who will not be spending the summer with us this year, it has gone by fast and we will miss you. For all of our friends who will be staying, you will find the summer filled with fun days. We will be going on vacation to the zoo, the beach and camping, and all will be happening right here, using lots of creativity and imagination. If your child is attending summer session, please remember to put sun screen on every morning and bring a toddler cup or bottle of water. I hope everyone enjoyed Children's Center Sunday and the BBQ, / Book fair. A Great Big thanks for all the hard working volunteers who continue to support the school endlessly.