

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

June 2009

Message from Maddy

Summer is here. The theme this season is "Trips and Travel". We will be going to the "Beach, the Zoo, and Camping" so bring your hat, sunglasses, sun screen and a comfortable pair a shoes. (Flip Flops can cause children to slip and fall during active play.) In the days and months ahead there will be times of water play, please check your child's cubby for an extra change of clothes. Chances are if your child does not have a change of clothing, you will get a call and have to leave work to bring a change for your child. This is a busy time for many families and the staff. Please let your teacher know if you will not be coming to school because of vacation or illness. Teachers record absences related to illness on their individual classroom illness log. *The staff appreciates your support in helping to keep everyone healthy.* A well balanced diet, plenty of rest and regular hand washing are **KEY** to happy and healthy children, families, and staff. A special "**Thank you!**" to all our families for a wonderful "Staff Appreciation Luncheon", all the special attention to detail, as well as for the thoughtful gifts. We know that it was quite a task to put something together as creative as it was. The staff and I feel very blessed to have such wonderful families in our program. Please turn in your parent surveys by June 15th. The surveys provide us information regarding what you, the families, think about the program and how we can improve it. I look forward to reviewing the surveys and sharing the information in the July newsletter. We will be having a "**Work Day**" on Saturday, May 20, 9:00 to 1:00, to install our new sand box for the courtyard. Watch for a sign up sheet on the Sign In table. We will need many volunteers to help with the installation. See Ms. Maddy for more details. Summer is a "**Transition Time**" for many children. We will also be welcoming several new families to our program. If you see a new face, take a moment and introduce yourself and welcome them as part of our AGUMCC family.

Ms. Tierra
is getting married!

June 21, 2009

She will be having a renaissance wedding to celebrate her marriage to Collon Tomlyn. The two were legally married one year ago this June.



Thank you to **Stephanie O'Reilly** (Michael's mom) for regular donations of art supplies and play materials, **Cindy Hahn** (Zoe' mom) for making us new pillowcases and window treatments, and **Adeline** for taking care of our laundry every couple weeks. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and care!

Theme for The Month

"Trips and Travel" will be our theme throughout the summer. The classes will be rotating themes from *Going to the Beach*, *Going to the Zoo*, and *Going Camping*. We hope you can share in the fun with your summer time vacation travel by bringing pictures and souvenirs from your travels.

CONGRADULATIONS!

Congradulations to Elijah (Pre-K) whose little brother was born on May 2. **Nickolas Stieger** weighed 9lb. 3 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to Mom (Annie), Dad (Tom), and sister (Michaela), too!

Also, Congratulations to Jack (Pre-K) whose little sister was born on May 15. **Lacey Preston** weighed 6lb. 8oz. and was 19 inches long. Congratulations to Mom(Renee), Dad (Jeremy) and brother (Jacob) too!

Dates to remember

- **Friday June 5** STAFF DEVELOPMENT School closes at 3:30
- **Monday June 15** SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS ARE DUE
- **Saturday, June 20** WORK DAY 9:00-12:00



Ms. Katelynn's Pre-K Class

Summer is here! With the warm weather here now, we are excited to begin our "Trip to the Beach" theme! (We will not actually be leaving the classroom!) We will be learning about ocean life and fun outdoor activities to do at the beach. This theme will include health and safety, when playing in the water and in the sun. If you have any items to share that are beach related, please feel free to bring them for the share basket or to add to our classroom environment! Thank you again to all the families for helping to make the graduation and acknowledgment ceremony so special. We will really miss all of the children who are moving on to new schools and, having the last celebration to reflect on the wonderful year, was amazing. We have so much to look forward to this summer and I know that this summer is going to be super fun! Thanks,

- Ms. Katelynn

Ms. Nichole, and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

In May, Room 3 welcomed Noah and his family as part of our preschool class. This summer, our theme will be "Trips and Travels" (Going to the beach, Zoo and camping). We will start by "going to the beach" in June. Our dramatic play will have beach chairs and many other items related to the beach. We are happy to share our summer adventures with the children who will be attending and wish a great break for those who will be gone for the summer and returning in the fall. Congratulations to the Pre K class on graduating to kindergarten. Thank you all for being part of our school!

- Mr. Paul

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers

We welcomed back the sun and the heat in May with much enthusiastic water play. The children diligently reminded us that the plants need water every day and they often tried to water them more than once each day. There was also much exploration with scooping, pouring, spray bottles, and water wheels. In addition to the great change in weather, this last month, we also had a change of Rabbits. Aslan the bunny went to stay with my sister, as her blindness was making it hard for her to be at our school. She has been greatly missed by both staff and the children. We were, however, fortunate enough to have my other bunny, Dante, come to stay with us at our school. This summer's theme will be travel and transportation. During this time, we learn about the different places and animals of the world, and all the ways in which we can get to those places. We will also set up the environment to include familiar places families go during the summer months (Zoo, beach and

camping) I cannot wait to see just how wild the children's imaginations can be.

-Ms. Tierra

Ms. Lori's Young Toddlers

A big welcome to all the new Families in room 2! June is camping month. Please keep in mind the sun can burn quickly so remember to put sunscreen on your child before school and bring a water bottle to help keep them hydrated. Thanks! After sunscreen, we can look forward to keeping our bodies safe and healthy so one and all may enjoy lots of summer fun and learning to come. Separation anxieties can be hard on both the parents and the toddlers, but remember that separation is a normal part of growth and development in toddler hood. Transitions take time when you are two. We will practice patience and understanding, as we walk through this stage, and later enjoy the long-term benefits, by following these easy tips. Tips for Transitions:

First, set up a routine and stick to it. From the time you get ready for school until the time you arrive in class, talk about what will happen next. It helps to embed new information through repetition until they are comfortable. This may take a little while or it could take a month or more. Each child moves in his or her own ability to cope with change. Next, make sure to give enough time to enter the classroom to put away lunch, diapers, jacket, water bottle etc. (Please make sure to label things with your child's name. I am not responsible for lost items when not labeled.) Find an activity you can start together, without rushing out the door. This allows your child the time to adjust from one place to the next. Lastly, always let your child know you are leaving. Say, "I will be back after snack", "lunch", "nap", etc. when you are saying goodbye. These routines help ground a child and give them a secure base. After a few times, they will know what to expect and that you will always come back. If you leave a crying child, it may be heartbreaking. Be assured, when your child is upset, you can always call and check back or come back early for a few times. We all need time for change and the first weeks will be about learning to build relationships with their teacher and peers. They will also be learning the daily routine, songs and how we treat our toys and friends. Once these things are learned, it will be a summer full of fun, friends, laughter, and learning through play.

- Ms Lori

**Have a safe and fun
Independence Day**

