

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

AUGUST 2009

Message from Ms. Maddy

August is the time of year for children to begin preparing for the fall. Children who are currently enrolled will have three scheduled visits to their new classroom before their official move in the fall. The first visit will be in the morning for choice time and snack, 9:30 to 10:30. The second visit will be in the mid morning during outdoor play in the courtyard and music and movement in the classroom, 10:30–11:30. The third visit will be again in the morning for circle time, choice time, snack, 9:00 to 10:30.

We will be hosting a School Improvement Day on Saturday, August 8, 2008. We will be touching up the paint on the bike track in the back yard, tend to the needs of the gardens, adding arrows to the bike path in the courtyard and adding door swing markings to signal the area of space the doors open outward into the courtyard. If you would like to join in on the fun, there will be a **Work Day Sign Up Sheet** on the Sign In/Out Table. AGUMCC will provide lunch for those who help improve and beautify our school.

Parent orientation Meeting will be Thursday Night, August 21, at 7:00. We will start in Criswell Hall, to go over updated information regarding the AGUMCC Program. Afterwards, the parents will follow the staff to their child's classroom to hear the highlights and an outline of what to look forward to this next school year. This is a night you don't want to miss. Sorry, there will be no childcare available.

The last three days of school we will be having "Wet and Wild" fun. Please bring sandals, a bathing suit, sunscreen, and a beach towel to enjoy the fun. Also, to celebrate the end of summer, we will have our **Summer Pot Luck Picnic on Wednesday, Aug 26 at 12:00 PM**. Bring a dish to share, a blanket to sit on and enjoy a meal with staff, family and friends. There will be a Sign Up sheet to bring something for the Pot Luck on the Sign In/Out Table. **School is out at 12:00**. Before lunch, please sign-out your child. **Remember, once you have signed your child out, they are your responsibility**. After your child/children are done eating, please keep a watchful eye on them as they run off any extra energy before you go home. **Don't forget, we will be closed Thursday and Friday Aug 27-29** for staff development and to prepare for the fall.

Parent Survey Results: Please see attachment.

A GREAT BIG THANKS!

Thank you to all of our families who brought in theme items to enhance our classroom environments. Missy Harris (Seth's mom) shared a tent with room 2 and Krulewekis (Tyler's family) shared their tent with the Pre-k class. Brian Yamada brought in ocean life for the children to have hands on learning: star fish and four other fish. The Guerreros (Amelie's family) brought in shells to share with room 3 as well as wonderful plums from their tree and needed recycle items. The Johnsons (Torsten's family) shared peaches and nectarines from grandpa's tree. The Donnelly's (Brigid's family) gave sea life animals to room 2 and have lent some of their favorite children's music CDs to share as well.

Theme for The Month

"Trips and Travel" will continue to 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 will share your family summer time fun and vacation with us by bringing in pictures and souvenirs from your travels.



Important Dates to Remember

- Friday, August 7**-Staff Development, School closes at 3:30
- Saturday, August 8**-Work Day , 9:00–12:00
- Tuesday, August 18** - Family Orientation Night, 7:00-8:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, August 25**-Planning Meeting for Family Fun Day,6:30-7:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, August 26** - School is out at noon
Families are invited to join staff for an *End of Summer Picnic/Pot Luck*.
- Thursday and Friday, August 27 & 28** - Staff Development. School is closed .
- Monday, August 31** - Traditional Fall Session begins

Ms. Katelynn's Pre-K Class

This summer is flying by! We have had so much fun going to the beach and going camping (Thank you to the Krulewecki family for letting us use their tent!). Now, in August, we will be taking a trip to the zoo. The zoo will be a great place for us to visit our Zoo-phonics animals including Zeke the Zebra, Timothy Tiger, Ellie Elephant, Yancy Yack, and many others. During the month of August, we will be inviting the preschool class to meet and explore our Pre-K classroom. We are so excited for our new students and for Ms. Nicole to be joining our class. I'm looking forward to team teaching with her and all of the amazing teaching she will be doing in the Pre-K classroom this year. For those students moving on to new schools, we will miss you very much and wish you the best of luck at your new school. Thank you to Ms. Katie for all of her help and hard work during these past summer months as well as Ms. Ashley (our second LaVerne student intern) who helped us for an additional three weeks!

- Ms. Katelynn

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

Wow what a summer! It was fun going to the beach and camping. It was exciting making sand art and binoculars. Now it is time for the zoo! We are going to learn about zoo animals and have fun making animal prints among other things. The class will make visits to the Pre- K class to get familiar with Ms. Katelynn and her environment. The children are glad Ms. Nichole will be transitioning with them, joining Ms. Katelynn in teaching the Pre-K class. We are happy to welcome Ms. Anna to our class and are looking forward to experiencing her fun energy along with the exiting activities she has planned.

-Mr. Paul

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers

How time flies when you are having fun! So far the summer has been filled with exciting explorations and exhilarating new discoveries. The children were thrilled to visit the zoo in June and discover many of the incredible animals this earth has to offer. Then it was off to the beach and the ocean in July. Many waves were caught, beach balls tossed, and sand castles built, but the greatest enjoyment was in learning about the ocean animals. We talked about how crabs and lobsters pinch, how octopus have eight legs while squids have a different number, how walrus' have tusks and seals and sea lions do not. As always, your

children soaked up the knowledge like tiny little sponges. As July comes to an end, it is time for us to move on to camping and to fall transitions. August is a month of change. The last of your children will be involved in toilet learning and the children will soon be making visits to the three year old class, with Mr. Paul and Mrs. Anna, in preparation for fall transitions. It is important, in this time of change, to remember one word, "Patience". Change is not always easy, especially on children, but it is an important part of and will be occurring throughout their lives. If we can remember to be patient with them in this time of change, we can help them to learn to transition more easily and be more confident in themselves. -Ms. Tierra



Ms. Lori's Young Toddlers

Happy, happy, Joy, Joy, all the toddlers are blending and building strong bonds and relationships with one another, finding the rhythm of the class. This month we added a new toddler in room 2. Welcome to Elyse Hardcastle and her family! We said a sad "good-bye" to Jessica. She will be joining her brothers in another program that better supports the needs of their family at this time. She will be missed. July was all about the zoo. The class was delighted as the room filled with animals from all the continents around the world. We compared and contrasted, categorized and identified. We discovered that some are meat eaters and some are plant eaters. We became veterinarians and took good care of the sick and baby animals. We learned that all animals need food, water and shelter and we had fun learning it with a finger play. August is transition month. We will be taking trips to the new room and getting familiar with Ms. Tierra as their new teacher. I will be transitioning with the group as well and team teaching with Ms. Tierra in the fall. We will have at least two trips on either a Tuesday or Thursday and two more on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The theme for room 2 is "A Trip to the Beach" and we will be learning about the shore, the marsh, the birds, other marine life, of course, and water safety.

-Ms. Lori

WISH LIST items to be put in our Earthquake Preparedness Supplies: A Coleman Stove, four(4) -2 gallon water containers, large Emergency Flashlights with batteries, and a pot to boil water.