

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Maddy

Spring is here and it is "The Month of the Young Child". Our school has many activities planned for the month including "Children's Center Sunday" and our Spring BBQ on April 11. Families are invited to attend the AGUM Church service at 10:30AM for a special presentation of "The Puppet People" (Sunday school classes are available for the children following the puppet show). The BBQ will follow, from 11:30 - 2:30 and will help raise money to make needed improvements to our program. Also, on this special day, there will be a benefit concert for "The San Luis Band", from 3-5PM, in the church sanctuary. Many volunteers are needed to make this day a success. Please sign up on the "BBQ Sign Up Sheet", on the Sign In /Out table. We are looking for people to pick up donated items, go shopping, help with set up on Saturday and to help with the event on Sunday. **Everyone can help with something!** Help with kitchen and BBQ set up will be needed at the beginning of the day and at 11:30 we will need servers, BBQers', runners, and dining room hosts. Following the event, at 2:30, we will need help with clean up of the kitchen, hall, and the BBQ area. Our final BBQ Planning Meeting will be Wednesday, March 7, 6:30 -7:30 PM, in Room 3. Child Care will be available.

The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center opened it's doors in September 2005 with 3 children. Now, we are pleased to say, we currently have 50 children enrolled. Our "Summer Session" and "Traditional Session" registration takes place in April. The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll this year will be Monday, April 5. Enrollment for families on our waiting list will be available after April 15 and open registration (If there are still openings) will begin after May 1. Toddlers account for most of our new enrollment. These spaces occur when our current toddlers move to our preschool class. After the transition of toddlers, there are only a few spaces left for new families to enroll in our preschool. The Pre-K class only has a few spaces for new families as well because of it's popularity. Our Pre-K program follows the Pre-K Guidelines set by the Department of Education which is designed to help children to successfully transition in to Kindergarten.. **It is always good to plan ahead when looking for a quality program.** We pride ourselves on having an educated staff that have a love for and commitment to young children. Also, we work hard on creating an environment that stands for quality. **Thank you to the staff, the families, the church and the board members, for all their time and dedication in making this a great program.**

. A **SPECIAL THANKS** to the Children's Center Staff and to Tracy and Matt Regusci for giving of their time and talent during "Love and Logic". Also, **THANKS** to Greta Robbins and Adeline Bottorff for helping with the weekly laundry and Margaret Kensinger -Klopfer for helping to organize our school library.

Theme for The Month:

New Life & Springtime Discovery

Things that slither, fly,
crawl, and hop, oh my!



Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Goodness

"If you are wise and understand
God's ways, live a life of steady
goodness so that only good deeds
will pour forth" James 3:3

Dates to Remember

- **MONTH OF APRIL- ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER AND TRADITIONAL SESSIONS**
- **Tuesday, April 6 - OPEN HOUSE 6:30 -7:30 PM**
- **Wednesday, April 7- Final BBQ Planning Meeting, 6:30 -7:30 PM**
- **Thursday and Friday April 8 & 9 - School is Closed for Staff Development**
- **Sunday, April 11 - CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY, SPRING BBQ, BOOK FAIR, AND BENEFIT CONCERT. See flyer for details.**

JUST AHEAD

MAY IS PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE MONTH

Ms. Nichole and Ms. Rebecca's Pre-K Class

Thank you to everyone who came to our Spring Picnic. It was great seeing all the families. We hope to see everyone at our BBQ on Children's Center Sunday. In March, we started looking at plants and how things grow. The children enjoyed planting in the garden, watering and watching their plants grow. This month we will be looking at estimating and comparing weights. We will continue to work on writing our numbers and letters. The children will be looking at bugs and new life throughout the month of April. We will also be working on our spring assessments this month, so that we are all ready for conferences in May.

-Ms. Nichole

Ms. Anna and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

One major sign our children are growing---new shoes! It seems as though half of our students' feet grew an inch this month and had to get new tennis shoes! Oh, and their appetites are getting bigger too! As their teacher though, I am happy to say that their thinking processes are growing just as fast as their bodies. In March, we talked about farms, how produce grows on the farm and is purchased at the grocery store, plant growth, and the difference between living and non-living things. We classified living things as those that grow bigger and stronger. I was one giddy teacher when the children totally grasped the concept and were sitting eagerly awaiting their turn to add something to our Living and Non-Living things chart. Thank you to all of the families who brought in plants to replenish our garden for Spring! April is upon us and it is a science-filled month. We will be discussing various forms of new life including bugs, insects, and the transformation these creepy crawlers experience known as metamorphosis. It will be quite an exciting month for our youngsters, as they are already known to go on butterfly, caterpillar, snail, and even pincher bug searches, just about every day, at backyard time!

- Ms. Anna

Ms. Lori and Ms. Tierra's Toddler Class

The toddlers had a magnificent time planting this month and wearing the seed necklaces. Thanks to Missy (Seth's mom) and her creativity, we learned about germination and how seeds start. They need moisture and the right temperature to grow. Then we discovered plants need soil, water, air and sun to grow and sometimes fertilizers. We found out there are many kinds of farmers. Some grow corn, wheat, apples, pigs, cows, goats and even bees. We made soup with the vegetables we learned about, we sang songs as we husked corn. After Reading "The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear", the class ate strawberries. The toddlers drove tractors in paint and rolled corn in brown play dough. In April, mark your calendar for Open House. This is a fun evening that you are invited to visit where the children learn every day. We will be adding a variety critters to the room, some will have six legs or eight, some will have more, some will have antennas, and some will have wings. This is an enjoyable time to explore the smallest of creatures (AKA bugs and insects) that live in the garden. See ya soon!

- Ms. Lori

Cindy Bo's Younger Toddlers

Many of the young toddlers were excited to discover the "Pig!", "Cow!", "Sheep!", etc. as they explored the classroom, finding representations of these animals in puzzles, puppets, books and play figures last month. They were eager to share their knowledge of the sounds they make too. We also read stories about how plants grow and did our best at gardening, planting seeds and plants (Thanks for your donations!) in pots for our gardens as well as starting our wheat grass baskets. We really enjoyed planting them and will also enjoy watching them grow. This will be a natural transition into our celebration of new life this month. We will be exploring the process of metamorphous (The caterpillar to a butterfly) and other bugs and insects which the young toddlers have been thrilled to discover in our yards already. They get so excited and can learn so much from these littlest of God's creatures.

Happy Spring!

-Cindy Bo