

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Maddy Spring has been a very busy time for the staff. They had Open House, attended the CAEYC Conference in Long Beach, planned the Annual Spring BBQ, and began preparing for conferences. The staff had a wonderful and inspirational time at the conference that fostered new ideas for each who attended. The BBQ was hard work, yet a success, thanks to ALL our volunteers. Again, thanks to all the staff, families, board members, and church staff who helped with this event. Congratulations to Paul Petker for selling the most BBQ tickets and winning the Family Four BBQ Pack. **Check out the great pictures of the food and fun had by all at www.worshipweekly.com.** The \$ 1,500 raised from this event will be used to make needed improvements to the Older Toddler Classroom, such as new cabinets for storage. The book fair was also enjoyed by many. From the book sales, we earned several 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 survey can be anonymous*). Thank you for your continued support in making this a quality program for the children and families we serve.

Be on the LOOK OUT for AGUMCC 2010 Memorabilia. We are selling *School T-Shirts and AGUMCC 2010 Digital Yearbooks*. The Yearbook features every child of the AGUMCC program. If you would like to see the AGUMCC Digital Yearbook before purchasing it, we will have a viewing outside the Pre- K Classroom the week of May 10-14. T-shirts and the Digital Yearbook can be purchased for \$10 each. See attached order forms to place your order for one or both of these great AGUMCC keepsakes.

A GREAT BIG THANKS to all the wonderful people who volunteered their time last month. Thanks to Mary Irion and Jenn Avila who set up for the Spring Picnic, to Jenn Avila, who gave of her time and talent to make the AGUMCC 2010 Digital Yearbook and, an extra big thanks to Greta Robbins for hosting the Book Fair and organizing the volunteers who sold books during the Book Fair Week.

**Theme for
May
Down at the
Pond**



Show your School Spirit!

We are placing our T- shirt and sweatshirt order on **Tuesday, May 11.** **Don't delay!** Pre-K children need their T shirts in time for the "Promotion and Acknowledgement Program" on Friday, May 28, 2010.

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 9 - Happy Mother's Day!**
- **Thursday, May 20 - Teacher Appreciation Luncheon at 1:00 PM**
- **Friday, May 28 - Pre-K Graduation** in the United Methodist Church Sanctuary at 7:00 PM (Children are to arrive @ 6:45)
- **Monday, May 31 -School is Closed for Memorial Day**
- **Monday, May 31—Scholastic Book orders due.**

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

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make Children's Center Sunday, BBQ, and Book Fair such a success! Next is Parent Conferences. This is a wonderful opportunity! We look forward to sharing with you your child's milestones and the many experiences your child has had at school throughout the year. 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 7:00, we will be having our Pre-K graduation program. Family and friends are welcome to join us for this special program and fun celebration. Children need to arrive at 6:45, in the Pre K classroom, to prepare for this event. In addition, we would like all of the children to wear our United Methodist Children's Center T-Shirt. If you do not have one, you may order one by Tuesday May 11, to ensure we have a unified and memorable moment for our graduation ceremony. There will also 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!

-Mrs. Rebecca and Mrs. Nichole

Ms. Anna and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

In April, we learned about insects, bugs, and life cycles which taught us lots of new vocabulary such as larva, pupa, antennae, thorax and abdomen. We also learned the difference between a cocoon and chrysalis. We compared similarities and differences between the various attributes of the insects and bugs as well as their life cycles. We shared stories of our baby days to compare and relate our change from baby to child to adult with the changes bugs and insects experience. Our science focus was on wind and how it affects our world. We came up with some insightful thoughts when asked, "What is wind?"! To learn how wind works and to see what direction it blows, we made wind testers and plastic bag kites which involved lots of prediction of "What do you think will happen...". In May, we will be "Down at the Pond" going fishing, watching tadpoles become frogs, waddling like ducks, slithering like snakes, and moseying like turtles. As it is now conference time, we will continue to solidify our year-long curriculum goals. We will discuss how capital and lowercase letters represent the same sounds, work on those confusing teen numbers '12', '13', and '15' as they don't match the children's natural inclination to say "three-teen". It will be yet another fun and learning filled month for Room 3! Considering it is the last month of the traditional term, we will miss those who will not be here this summer, and look forward to continuing with those who are! When I think back on the beginning of this year, I am amazed at how much our students have grown cognitively, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for letting us be a part of their lives. They are coming into their own and it is a beautiful thing!

-Ms. Anna

Ms. Lori and Ms. Tierra's Toddler Class

First, thanks to all the parents who helped and supported the Book Fair, BBQ and Open House. It means a great deal to the children and staff when parents participate. For those who attended the Open House and toured through the bug-filled classroom in April. I trust everyone enjoyed making ants on a log and the arachnids (spiders). Open House was a busy fun filled night for all. Thanks again for coming. May is parent conferences. Please look for the signup sheet in Room 1. Conference is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of being a toddler, moving on to pre-school. We look forward to sharing the highlights of the past year and answering any questions about the next stages of your child's development. In May, the class will explore pond life including ducks, frogs, turtles, and fish. We will be studying life cycles of the animals who live in and around the pond, so put on your wading boots and grab your fishing poles. FYI, this will be my last year here at AGUMCC. It has been a Joy to be a part of the Board and Staff who dedicate their time and resources continually to make this school flourish. My Husband and I will be starting a Home Health Care Business called Abbee Care. This draws its meaning from "spiritual" and "superior", a strong name to live up to. I hope to fill the rest of my time with a new Grandbaby, coming in November, and volunteering. Thanks for trusting me with the care and growth of your children. My last day will be Wednesday, August 4th, the end of the summer session. I will enjoy my time as I will finish out the school year which is with the children.

- Ms. Lori

Cindy Bo's Younger Toddlers

Thank you for helping make it possible for us to attend the CAEYC conference again this year (For all your fundraising support!). It was a great time for bonding as a staff, carpooling to and from Long Beach, sharing meals together, and reflecting on all we learned through the workshops we attended over the two-day conference. I especially appreciated the insights and research of the keynote presenter, Michael Gurian, on the differences of the boy and girl brain, and important factors to keep in mind about how each can best grow and learn. We were blessed to observe the process of our caterpillars turning to butterflies this past month. Moving into our May theme of "Down At The Pond", we hope to observe pollywogs changing into frogs over the course of the next few weeks. There has been a lot of interest and joy in outdoor discoveries that I'm sure will continue through the month as well. As you know, I will miss out on the happenings of our classroom this month yet I look forward to hearing, from Lisa, about the things that take place while I am gone. I hope she shares with me the excitement of the children watching ladybugs nurture our garden or stories about following lizards as they run into the bushes and hearing a child ask another "Where did it go?" That will make my recovery time go quickly. God's wonders are never-ending

- Cindy Bo