

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

www.worshipweekly.com

March 2011

Message from Ms. Maddy

The Rain Gutter Regatta was a great success. Check out the pictures at www.worshipweekly.com/090213.html. Thank you to the staff and parents who volunteered their time to help make the event fun for everyone. The money raised will help the staff attend the 2011 CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in Sacramento on March 25 & 26.

This month's theme is "How Things Grow and Exploring Farm Life". Spring is coming and it's time for renewing our gardens. Children will be very involved in this process as they cultivate the ground, bring plants to plant, care for them, and watch them grow. We have two areas in the courtyard that we will be reviving with new flowers. We will also be planting a new crop of vegetables in the backyard garden. The gardens are an important part of our learning experience here at AGUMCC. The children will learn to care for and appreciate the wonder of life and the delicate balance of nature. The garden also provides science at its best with the budding of foliage, the buzzing of insects, and the blossoming of flowers.

Please join us for the "Work Day" scheduled for this Saturday, **March 5, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon**. The toddler room is getting new cabinets and a counter top to help with storage and improve the workspace for this very busy classroom. The cabinets are already put together and Home Depot will be delivering them this week. All we need is a little muscle to get the counter top and cabinets from outside to inside the classroom and to make sure everything is level and square. Also, we will need help getting the gardens ready for planting the new plants that the children will soon be bringing for their class planting days. There will be a sign up sheet for the "Work Day" located on the Sign In/Out table. If you have any questions, see Maddy.

Theme for The Month: "How Things Grow and Exploring Farm Life"

We invite you to bring a plant to be planted in one of our gardens. Any non-toxic flower or vegetable you would like to bring will be a great addition to our play yards. Please check with your child's teacher to find out their scheduled class planting days.

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for March: Gentleness

The children are often reminded of the importance of being gentle with things and each other here at school. We will have a special focus on gentleness as we care for plants and talk about farm animals this month. We are encouraged in the book of Philippians to "Let your gentleness be known to all men" (Phil. 4:5)

Mark Your Calendar For These Important Up Coming Events

March

- Friday, March 4 - **Staff Development Day and School Spirit Day**. Wear your school T-shirt to show your school spirit. **School will close at 3:30.**
- Saturday, March 5 - "**Work Day**". We will install new cabinets and a counter top in the Toddler Room and do prep work in the gardens.
- Saturday, March 12—" **Baby Shower Brunch** " 10am -12 noon for Ms. Lisa, Ms. Nichole, and Ms. Tierra.
- Tuesday, March 22—" **Proclamation for the Month of the Young Child**" from Arroyo Grande City Council at 7:00 PM. Children will give the council members artwork as a "Thank You" for receiving the Proclamation.
- Thursday, March 24 and Friday, March 25 - **STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL IS CLOSED** (Staff will be attending the CAEYC Conference in Sacramento).

April * Summer and Fall Enrollment Month! *

- Friday, April 1 - **Staff Development Day and School Spirit Day**. Wear your school T-shirt to show your school spirit. **School will close at 3:30.**
- Thursday, April 7 - **AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE, 6:30 -7:30 PM**
- Thursday, April 14 - **Children's Center Sunday BBQ Planning Meeting @ 6:30 PM**
- Wednesday, April 20 - **MINIMUM DAY** for Spring Pot Luck.
- Thursday, April 21 and Friday, April 22 - **School is closed for Holy Thursday and Good Friday.**

April is the time to register your child for "Summer Session" and "Traditional Session". Watch for "Registration Information" that will be going out this month. The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll is Tuesday, April 5. Enrollment for families on our "Waiting List" enrollment begins on April 15. (If there are still openings, "Open Enrollment" begins on May 2.)

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

We had a very busy month of February. We really enjoyed our visits from all of our community helpers and had a lot of fun at our friendship celebration too. A special "Thank you" goes out to all of our families who attended and brought items for our celebration as well as to all of you who attended and volunteered for our rain gutter regatta. March promises to be full of just as much fun and learning. We will be finishing our individual study of the letters of the alphabet and will be continuing to learn all of our numbers. The children have started learning some sight words and are starting to read beginning readers. Our theme for the month will be springtime and we will be learning about how things grow and change. We are also beginning to prepare for spring conferences (In May). We will begin our assessments this month so we can give you a thorough view of how your child is doing. In addition, we want to remind you that kindergarten is coming quickly. If you need any information or have any questions about what kind of program would be best for your child, feel free to let us know.

- Ms. Lisa

Ms. Nichole and Ms. Wasinii's Preschool Class

Thank you to everyone who made Community Helpers month and our Friendship Potluck a huge success! In addition to meeting local firefighters and spraying the real fire hose, we were able to sit in Scott the postal worker's truck and have our eyes checked by Dr. Hile, a local optometrist. It was great to see how excited the children were to see all the emergency vehicles. In March, we will be farmers as we plant and grow various plants in our classroom and in our school gardens. We will also discuss how things grow on the farm. We have been practicing writing our

names and some of us can do it on our own now! We will continue solidifying this skill in March, as well as helping the children to identify letter sounds. Thank you, again, for all the parent participation we had in February and we look forward to another great month.

- Ms. Nichole

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers

Thanks to all who contributed food for and helped with clean-up following our Friendship Breakfast. To those family members who were able to join us, the children, Ms. Tierra and I really enjoyed that time with you! It was wonderful to observe the special "friendship interactions" that took place between you and your children and other families attending this event. In February, the toddlers were very curious and interested in meeting the special visitors who came to share about the part they play in serving our community. What a thrill it was for them to be able to climb up in the big fire truck. Some were even daring enough to spray the powerful fire hose! We enjoyed our visit from Scott, the mail carrier, Jason, the police officer, Dr. Hile, the paramedic/EMTs, and, of course, making pizza with Ms. Pam in the kitchen. Special thanks to Margaret, the Librarian (Charlottes mom) for sharing her knowledge and love of books with the children. This month we will be exploring farm life. In addition to learning to identify farm animals, what they eat and the resources they help provide (milk, eggs, etc.), the children will be able to show off the animal sounds many of them are so proud to know already. In keeping with the theme, we'll also be planting seeds and tending to our gardens. This will be a nice transition into our April celebration of Easter and new life. Thanks for all of your support in helping raise the funds needed for staff to attend the professional conference at the end of the month. We really appreciate you!

- Cindy Bo

A "Baby Shower Brunch"

For Ms. Lisa, Ms. Nichole, and Ms. Tierra

Saturday, March 12, 2011

10:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Sign Up to Bring a Dish to Share
The "Sign-UP" sheet will be located on the Sign In/Out Table for this special event.
See attached flier for more information.