

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 planned our annual "Open House" for Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 PM. Families, friends, and the community are invited to attend this event. This is a time for the staff to share the importance of the play, exploration, and learning that occurs, each day, at our center. In addition, you will have an opportunity to see the many learning activities and areas of interest both in and outside the classroom.

Our "Year Round" registration takes place in April. 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 46 children enrolled. The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll this year will be Tuesday, April 10. Enrollment for families on our "Waiting List" will start on April 16 and "Open Registration", if there are still openings, will start on May 1. Toddlers account for most of our new enrollment. Then there are a few spaces left for new families to enroll in our preschool. Next, the Pre-K class may only have one or two openings 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 enter 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 by following the standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. *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.*

April is also time for the AGUMCC Annual Children's Center Sunday Celebration. Families are invited to come and hear their children sing at the 10:30AM church service. Following the service, AGUMCC will be hosting an Art Show, Book Fair, and Ice Cream Social from 11:30 - 12:30. The money raised from this event will help make needed improvements to our program. Currently our program needs new wood chips and sand for the backyard. Look for the "Sign Up sheet to help with his event. **We need many volunteers for this event to be a success.**

Do you own a computer? Please bring your empty ink cartridges for the staff to recycle for cash at Office Max and Staples. The container for the ink cartridges is located next to the Sign In and Out table.

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

APRIL

- MONTH OF APRIL- ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION FOR AGUMCC YEAR ROUND REGISTRISTRATION.
- Wednesday, April 4- Minimum Day and a Heritage Pot-Luck Lunch Celebration School is closed at 12:00 noon.
- Thursday & Friday, April 5 & 6- School is Closed for Holy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Thursday, April 12 - OPEN HOUSE 7:00 -8:00 PM
- Thursday, April 19- AGUMCC Children Center Sunday Planning Meeting, 6:30 -7:30 PM
- Sunday, April 22—Children's Center Sunday Celebration

MAY

- Friday, May 11 - Staff Appreciation Luncheon, in the McMillen room, 1:00 PM .
- Sunday, May 22 - AGUMCC Spring BBQ and Book Fair

TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID

This month, Pastor David and Goodie Bear (With Ms. Shirley) will share about Goodness. This special time will be on Wednesday and Thursday April 25 and 26, in the church narthex, at 9:30AM

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

March was fun!! Learning about the different kinds of farms there are and learning about plants and the responsibility of caring for a living thing. We would like to let all the parents know that we appreciate all the hard work and contributions made to the fundraisers so that we could go to our conference. We learned new ideas and tools to bring to our classroom and your children. April is upon us now and we will be finishing our focus on the letters of the alphabet with our last four letters, 'W', 'X', 'Y', and 'Z'. Our theme focus for this month is going to be bugs/insects and life cycles. We will also be working on spring assessments for conferences in May. Finally, Open House is coming up soon. Come and let your child give you the tour of their classroom and see all their great work.

-Ms. Rebecca

REMINDER: Kindergarten registration is coming up. Have you thought about it?

Miss Kristel's Preschool Class

"You've Got Mail"...Have you all received your mail from our class? March was a fun month. We learned about what grows on the farm, the children got to paint a still life painting, make art out of beans and learned about Gentleness from the famous Tim and Lucy. They also had a chance to learn about the Pentagon shape. March was also a time for growing flowers and plants in the class. April will open the door for our theme "New Life", where we will learn about bugs and pastel colors. The children will be so excited to work with pastel colors, creating art in the class. "Goodness" is the fruit of the spirit this month. I know, for sure, Tim and Lucy will have lots to say about that. Also, for any parents who would like to sign up and volunteer their time for Story Time, please email me at miss.kristel@yahoo.com. My Positive Discipline parenting class, that I am teaching with Maddy, is going great. If any of you want to sign up, it is not too late!!! Lastly, the conference in San Diego was so much fun and it was a great way for all of us to stay educated and up to date with new early childhood philosophies. Thank you for contributing to the spaghetti dinner and helping us get to San Diego!!

-Miss Kristel

Cindy Bo's Young '3's

The Young '3's made full use of the farm animal representations they discovered in the classroom last month. Find-

ing animal puzzles, puppets, books and play figures, they role played, practiced animal sounds and lead their own "Song and Story Times". We talked about how vegetables and fruits grow and sampled a variety of both, in different forms (raw, cooked, squeezed etc.) We also read stories about how plants grow and did our best at gardening, planting seeds and plants. They enjoyed planting them, and especially loved watering them with spray bottles and sprinkler cans. We look forward to watching them grow as we continue to care for them. Now we move into our celebration of new life, as flowers bloom and fruits emerge. This is also an enjoyable time to explore the smallest of God's creatures (AKA bugs and insects) We will explore a variety of critters, some with six legs or some with eight or more. Some will have antennas and some will have wings. We will also explore the process of metamorphosis (The caterpillar to a butterfly). The children have been thrilled to discover many of these bugs and insects in our yards already. They get so excited and can learn so much from their discoveries. Thanks, again, for helping to make it possible for the staff to attend our professional conference last month. I gained some new insights as well as affirmed much of what I believe to be best practices in my work with children. I hope to share more with you in "Notes To My Families", to be sent out periodically. Happy Spring!

-Cindy Bo

Ms. April and Ms. Wasinii's Toddlers

In March, we talked about different animals that live on the farm. We also talked about the different crops that come from farms. A favorite song to sing was "Old McDonald". The children were able to show their knowledge of different animals and the sounds that they make! The children were also able to paint animal prints, using the different footprints of the animals. For some children it was fun to use the "mommy" animals and "baby" animals, and then they compared the different sizes. A favorite activity using the "mommy" and "baby" animals was to match them up together and then name the different animals. We also planted some individual seeds and began observing the growth of the plants. Since we started growing these plants in late March, we will be continuing to watch these plants in the month of April. These discussions and activities will be a great way to transition into our celebration of new life this month. We will be continuing to learn about the metamorphosis (caterpillars turning into butterflies). We will also be exploring other bugs and insects that are outside in our yards! We will be learning the different names and observing their movements, while still respecting them as creatures. We will also continue to watch our seeds grow into plants and help nurture them with soil, water, air and sun! Don't forget to mark your calendars for Open House! We hope to see everyone there!

-Ms. April