

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Ms. Maddy

Our theme this month is "Celebration of Traditions". Each family will receive a "Celebrating Family Heritage" project sheet, in their family folder. To help us learn more about your family and traditions your family may celebrate, please return this sheet. This is another way we can work together to build the relationship between home and school. Please talk to your child's Teacher if your family has a tradition that you would like to share with your child's classmates. We hope everyone feels welcomed and connected here, as we invite you to share your own traditions with us. I look forward to the New Year, fostering relationships with the children and families, supporting a dedicated staff, and providing the best care we can to the children in our program.

We invite everyone to celebrate the season by coming to our **Children's Holiday Program** on Thursday, December 13. Children will sing songs that reflect celebrated traditions of the children, families, and staff. The Holiday Program will be held in the sanctuary and will last about 25 minutes. The program will be followed by a time of sharing in friendship, and enjoying goodies, brought by the families, in Criswell Hall. **Admission to the Holiday Program is a non-perishable unopened food item.** See attached list of food needed by the Five Cities Christian Women's group to make Christmas baskets. *More details on the back.*

Who likes books? It is time for our **Holiday Scholastic Book Fair**. We need a volunteer to help chair this event. We will also need several volunteers to help sell books during the week of December 10-14. Volunteers will receive \$10 worth of free books. Look for the Sign-Up Sheet on the Sign In/Out Table. Please contact Maddy if you are interested in chairing or helping with this event.

We are selling **See's Candy for the Holidays**. The money raised by this fundraiser will assist teachers in attending the annual "California Association for the Education of Young Children" (CAEYC) conference, this coming year, on March 14 & 15. Order forms went out with the November Newsletter if you would like to purchase "See's Candy" or know others who love this delicious treat and would like to support our staff by placing an order. "See's Candy" orders are due to your teacher by Wednesday, December 5.

We will be having a **"Pajama and Pizza Party"** on Friday Dec 14 to celebrate the turning in of the **Fall Surveys**. Please turn in your surveys to your child's teacher by Dec 12.

Dates To Remember

- **Friday, December 7 - School Closes at 3:30 for Staff Development.** Its SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY! Show your school spirit and wear your AGUMCC T-shirt.
- **Mon. - Thurs., December 10 - 13 - Holiday Book Fair** in Criswell Hall during school hours (See scheduled hours)
- **Thursday, December 13 - Children's Holiday Program & Social** at 7:00 PM, in the Church Sanctuary (Children arrive in classrooms at 6:45). Social to follow in Criswell Hall
- **Friday, December 14 - Pajama Day and Pizza** . Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school.
- **Friday, December 21 is a Minimum Day.** School is closed at 12 noon for toddlers and 1:00 for Preschoolers.
- **Monday through Friday December 24—28 - School Closed** for Christmas Break

Theme for The Month

"Celebration of Traditions"



Fruit of The Spirit: Peace

How can we be peacemakers in our homes and at school? We are going to be learning about using our words and being role models for others. We will be sharing stories like, "You are Special" and, a classic, "The Mitten", to help illustrate how we all can be peacemakers.

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

Thank you everyone for participating in the Giving celebration! We enjoyed spending time with the families and children. In November we celebrated the theme "Being Thankful and Sharing with Others". The children made Hand print placemats and told us what they are thankful for. We have been practicing our letters and recognizing them in a story or in the name of another child in the class. The children are enjoying 'Share Time" and linking their share item to the letter of the week. The children are always so excited to go over the calendar and the "Daily Jobs" at morning group. "Snack Helper", "Line Leader" and "Caboose" are the top 3 jobs! Thank you to all the parents that helped at our Work Day! We appreciate your time and hard work! In December our theme will be "Celebration of Traditions." During this time, the children and teachers will be able to share about their own family traditions, by bringing in pictures or objects that symbolize the traditions in their families. We will focus on peace as December's "Fruit of the Spirit". We will help the children incorporate peace into our classroom environment by continuing to problem solve and dialogue in appropriate ways. We also look forward to practicing holiday songs for our December program...it will be fun! *-Miss Kristel*

AGUMCC is collecting **non-perishable unopened food items** to continue the spirit of giving and sharing with others; we are asking each family to please bring a non-perishable unopened food item, to donate, as "admission" to the **Holiday Program**. The Five Cities Christian Women will be making "Christmas Baskets" for families in need in our community. Also, there is a basket for your donations located next to the "Sign In / Out Table" if you would like to donate early or more than once.



We are collecting "Labels for Education". You can find these labels on packages, cans, beverages, magazines, and cereals boxes. Cut the labels out and put them in the Labels for Education Box located next to the Sign In/ Out table. For more information go to www.labelsforeducation.com



Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

In November we celebrated the theme of "Being Thankful and Sharing with Others". The children also learned about fall harvest vegetables. Our "Fruit of the Spirit" for November was "Faithfulness". Tim and Lucy, our classroom puppets, talked to the children about being faithful and how we can be thankful for what we have. The class just loves Tim and Lucy, even though Lucy and Tim are sometimes not very kind to each other. The children always give them great ideas on how to be more polite with and thankful for each other. In December we will introduce the "Celebration of Traditions". This is a chance for all the children to get to know their family origins and get to see if their peers have a place of origin in common. It will be great to learn about each family and what unique traditions, experiences, cultural foods your family brings to our community. The "Fruit of the Spirit" for December is "Peace" and I am sure Tim and Lucy will have great lessons to share with the children about that. The star is the shape for the month and there will be more writing and letter recognition in December, as well. As we count down to Christmas, the children will help in the counting process!!! December, here we come!!! *-Miss Shirley*



**Blessings to all this
holiday season.**

A TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR

Pastor David's "Fruit of the Spirit" message to the children, this month, will be about "Peace". Once again, Ms. Shirley will bring "Goody Bear" to share a special message from his heart. This month, this special time together will be on **Wednesday and Thursday, December 19 and 20, 9:30 AM, in the Church Narthex.**

Ms. April and Ms. Wasinii's Toddlers

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Giving Celebration this year! We love spending time with the families and children. In November we celebrated the theme of "Being Thankful and Sharing with Others." The children practiced using kind words and sharing with their peers. We also talked about solving our problems using words instead of hands. In November, the children learned a new flannel board song/story called Turkey wore his "colored" feather. The children all got to practice taking turns putting a different colored feather on the turkey. We have been practicing our colors with different flannel board stories, which allows the children to also practice patience when waiting for their turns. Thank you for bringing in all the family and pet photos. The books are now available for the children to read in the library corner. Make sure you take a look at them, or have your child show you his/her page! In December we will follow the theme of the "Celebration of Traditions". This is a time that the children will be able to share their different Holiday traditions. If your family has pictures of different traditions, we invite your child to share them with our class! The "Fruit of the Spirit" this month will focus on "Peace". In the classroom, we will continue to practice using 'kind' words and 'kind' actions with everyone. We will also be practicing some fun songs that will be sung at the Holiday Program. We hope that everyone can make it!

-Ms. April

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

I hope those of you who were able to attend, enjoyed our Giving Celebration this year. It was so nice to share that time with you and your children. During the month of November, the Young Toddlers became more and more comfortable with our class routines, with me as their Primary Caregiver, and with each other. Parents shared, with me, that their children were mentioning the names of their friends at home and on the way to school, eager to see them. Each one of them is able to identify others in the group, by name, and even able to get something or put something away, in the appropriate cubby, for each other. They spend a lot of time observing, interacting and engaging with each other throughout the day. It is so sweet to hear their simple communications and to observe them holding hands, hugging or offering something to another. Thank you to all those who donated spare change for our "Pennies for Turkeys" jar. The children got excited about putting coins in our jar to help buy turkeys for others. Each took a turn putting in a few pennies, then a few nickels, and a dime or quarter or two. What a great way to make helping others fun. This month we will explore different family traditions and holidays. I would like to invite you to share your special holiday traditions (pictures, foods, stories, etc.) with our class if you'd like. We will also be practicing "Jingle Bells" to share with you at our Holiday Program. I hope you all can make it. It is always a special time of getting together and rejoicing over each one of the precious children God has placed in our lives. Merry Christmas!

-Cindy Bo

Thank you to everyone who purchased or helped the staff sell "See's Candy". The deadline to order is **Wednesday, Dec. 5**. The candy is scheduled to arrive by Friday, Dec 14. The money we raise will help the staff attend our annual professional development conference, this March, in San Jose.

