

# Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center [www.worshipweekly.com](http://www.worshipweekly.com). January 2024

## Message from Ms. Maddy



**Happy New Year!** We hope you enjoyed the return of the Children's Christmas Program that we had on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. This was a special time together visiting with the families of our program. **THANK YOU** to the staff and the children who spent many days practicing their songs in preparation for the fun event for everyone to enjoy. Also, **THANK YOU** to all those who brought treats to share.

We feel blessed to continue serving families and providing the best care and early childhood education to the children in our program. We extend a heartfelt **"THANK YOU"** to all the families who have chosen our program. As a quality childcare provider, our staff participates in the Quality Counts program provided through the San Luis Obispo Child Care Planning Council. This service offers our staff continued education opportunities and stipends for their continued professional and educational achievements.

**Do you need extra care from time to time?** If so, fill out an **"Extra Care Form"** and give it to your teacher or me. It is helpful to provide a 24-hour notice to ensure space is available.

**Do you need to change your child's contract?** We understand that changes occur for families. However, we do have a 30-day written notice policy that is required for families needing to make changes regarding their childcare needs. There can be movement in childcare and limited spaces for children in our program. With this policy in place, AGUMCC has ample time to notify a new family to join our program when a space opens up for another family.

**Please check to make sure your child has a set of Extra Clothes.** Also, this is a good time to check if your child has extra clothes in their cubby and if the ones in his/her cubby still fit and are appropriate for the weather.

### BIBLE STORY AND GOODIE BEAR TIME

Wed. Jan. 3 and Thurs. Jan. 4 2024 in the Narthex at 9:00 am.

Bible Story: **"Fish for Breakfast"**, from the Beginning Bible, John 21.

Song: **Joy, Joy, Joy**

The Fruit of the Spirit" message will be about **"Joy"**.



### Dates To Remember

**Mon., Jan. 15** - School is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

This is also the last day to order Scholastic Books .



### Friends of the Children's Center CAMPAIGN.

Make a difference in a child's life with a  
"Year End Gift" or Monthly Pledge  
Your tax deductible contribution is safe and easy.

#### Three ways to GIVE:

1. Visit: <https://www.agumcc.org> and use the **GIVE NOW** button.
2. Mail: AGUMCC 275 N Halcyon Rd.  
Arroyo Grand, CA 93420
3. Use this QR code with your smartphone's camera.



Thank You to  
our January



Friends of the Children's  
Center Sponsor:  
**Dick and Patti  
Melsheimer**

### Ms. Elvia TK Class

December was a whirlwind! We hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas with friends and family! We also hope your time off with your children was filled with laughter and love. I am really honored to be your child's teacher and appreciate your generosity and support of our program and class. During this month, children created many Christmas-themed paintings to go with this special holiday we all enjoy. The children made a very special gift to give to their families. In addition, we talked about why we celebrate Christmas. It is when Jesus was born (Jesus's Birthday.) Children colored and created a "Jesus is Born" book to go along with our bible story. Moreover, children have enjoyed the art area, making gingerbreads, snowmen, and trees with playdough and decorating them with colored beads. In addition, children also enjoyed the STEM area, where they got to build a tree using cups and decorate with bells and pom poms. They were so careful as they stacked the cups and were amazed at how tall they built the tree. Thank you to all who made it to the Christmas Program and helped out for the social. The children had waited for this special day to come and were excited to have their families see them up on stage and hear their beautiful voices.

As we look forward to a new year, I will be observing the children to uncover the many interests they have so that we can continue to incorporate them into our curriculum, along with our Kindergarten readiness curriculum. We will include learning to count by tens. We will also place a star symbol on the class birthday calendar so the children can see how many months are left in TK to prepare them for starting Kindergarten. Also, this is a good time to reach out to your child's upcoming school to find out when they will conduct their Kindergarten Round-Up. They usually take place in the spring (Mar, Apr, or May) and will give your child a chance to see their potential new school and new teacher.

For January, we are moving forward with our Zoo Phonics, introducing Oo, Pp, and Qq. We look forward to your sharing pictures for these letters in the weeks ahead. Our moral teaching for the month is Joy, so we will also spend our time talking about the things that bring us joy, such as our families and friends, as well as Jesus and his love for all of us. Happy New Year! ~ Ms. Elvia

### Ms. Swati & Ms. Liz Preschool Class

Happy New Year! We welcome 2024 with open arms and high hopes for a successful and fulfilling year. I hope you all had a relaxing break. Last month, it was fun watching our friends sing our Christmas songs together. We hope this new year will bring many

more fun-filled activities.

This month, we begin focusing on winter weather and the changing seasons. Although we don't have snow here, we will discuss winter weather in our area, where we get rain and high tides. We have pictures posted on the wall as a visual aid. Children observed the leaves falling from the big tree in the backyard. Children enjoy spending time raking and jumping in the leaves. We will learn about winter plants, animals, and new concepts like hibernation through books and videos.

To start the new year, we will begin a new routine in the class for you and your child. We will practice tracing their name as one of the classroom activities. This will help enforce the skills of identifying their name and learning to trace it by using their fine motor pincer grasp skills and holding markers correctly. Children can build tall ladders and spaceships using connecting blocks and houses for arctic animals using cotton balls and blocks. We will work on fun art projects, like using the children's names to make snowmen and using scissors to make snowflakes and mittens.

As we have started a New Year, please restock extra clothes in your child's cubby since they may have outgrown the ones currently in their cubbies. In addition, please make sure to continue sending your child wearing layers as we are still in our cold months.

Thank you to our cherished Preschool Families as we look forward to another amazing year. In love, light, and learning Swati Gupta

### Ms. Shirley & Ms. Cindy Bo's Toddlers

As we welcome the New Year, our class will get into gear to say, "Hello, 2024!" In January, we will center on a winter theme and see what interests the children as we develop our lesson plans.

December brought us lots of Joy and laughter. We sang Christmas songs, had a dance party, and even performed for you at the Christmas Program. Through a lot of practice and smiles, the children did very well. They enjoyed decorating the tree with candy canes in the classroom, re-enacting the Christmas story with flannels, and even a manger scene on the table. It was such a busy month, as you can see. We hope your Christmas was special! As teachers, we centered on teaching the reason for the season, the birth of baby Jesus. ~ Ms. Shirley

### AGUMCC Wish List

5 oz cups, Baby Wipes, and  
Laundry Helpers.