Message from Ms. Maddy

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com December 2017

The Giving Celebration was a wonderful event with ____ people in attendance. Thank you to everyone who gave and participated in this special event. Many hands made light work, with set up, serving, and clean up. Also, at the celebration, were the ladies from Five Cities Christian Women's' Food Pantry. We presented them with the money that was collected during the month of November. They will use this money to purchase turkeys for the Christmas Baskets which will be given to families in our community, who are in need, this season. Watch the fundraising board to find out how much money we collected. Every \$1 we contributed, was equivalent to \$10, at the Food Pantry. They were very thankful for the money we collected.

This month, each family will receive a "Family Heritage Information Sheet". This is another way we can work together to build the relationship between home and school. Please complete and return it to your child's teacher. This project will help us to learn more about your family and the traditions you may celebrate. If your family has a tradition, that you would like to share with your child's classmates, please make sure to speak to your child's teacher. We hope everyone feels welcomed and connected here, as we invite you to share your traditions with us. I look forward to the New Year, fostering relationships with the children and families, supporting a dedicated staff, and providing quality care to the children in our program.

We invite everyone to celebrate the season, by coming to our "Children's Christmas Program" on Thursday, December 14, at 6:30 pm. The Christmas Program will be held in the sanctuary and will last about 30 minutes. The program will be followed by "Treats and Goodies Pot-Luck Social" in Criswell Hall. The Sign Up for the Social will be on the Sign In/Out table.

We are selling **See's Candy for the Holidays**. Don't stand in the long line at the store; **ORDER FROM US BY FRIDAY**, **DEC 1**. The candy will be ready for you to pick up on Friday December 15. This fundraiser will help raise funds for our Staff's Professional Development.

On Friday, Dec 22, we will be having a "Pajama & Pizza Party". This day is also a Minimum Day. We will serve lunch at 11:30 am, because of it being a minimum day. School will close at 12:00 noon. We will be celebrating the beginning of our Christmas Vacation.

Have you completed your Family Survey? Surveys are due by Wednesday, Dec. 20. You can turn your surveys by putting it in the envelope, on the Information Board, above the Sign In/Out table, or take the survey on-line at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFQNT7C. Thank you for taking the time to give us feed back regarding your satisfaction of our program. We are truly blessed that you have entrusted us with your greatest gift and are thankful to be a part of your family. Merry Christmas to all and may we have many blessings in the New Year.

Dates To Remember

- <u>Friday, December 1</u> School Closes at 3:30, for Staff Development. It's SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY! Show your school spirit and wear your AGUMCC T-shirt.
- Thursday, December 14 Children's Christmas Program & Social at 6:30 PM, in the Church Sanctuary (Children arrive in classrooms at 6:15). Social to follow in Criswell Hall.
- <u>Friday, December 22</u> Pajama Day, Pizza Party, and Minimum Day
 Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school. School will close at 12:00 noon.

- Monday through Friday, December 25-29 School is closed for Christmas Break.
- ★ Monday January 1 School is closed for New Years Day.

Fruit of The Spirit: Peace

♣ ♣ How can we be peacemakers in ★ ★ our homes and at school? We are



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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.

BIBLE STORY & GOODIE BEAR TIME

We will read "The Good News", from the Beginning Bible, Luke 2:8-20. Goodie Bear and Ms. Shirley will share our "Fruit of the Spirit" teaching on **Peace**. This wonderful time together will be shared on Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 6 & 7, at 9:05 AM, in the Church Narthex.

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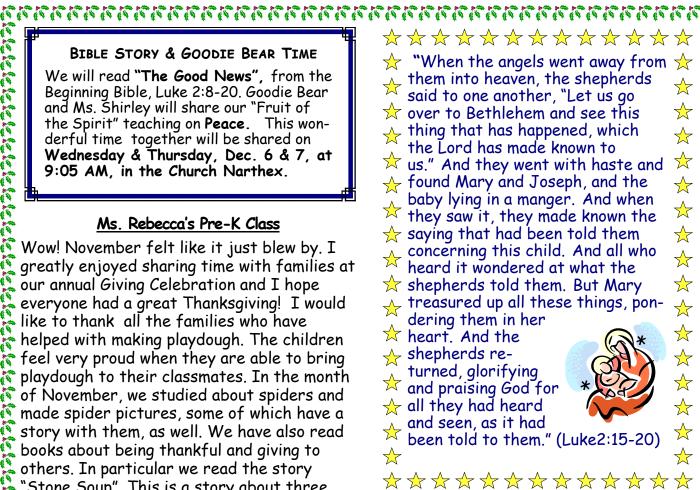
Ms. Rebecca's Pre-K Class

Wow! November felt like it just blew by. I greatly enjoyed sharing time with families at our annual Giving Celebration and I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! I would like to thank all the families who have helped with making playdough. The children feel very proud when they are able to bring playdough to their classmates. In the month of November, we studied about spiders and made spider pictures, some of which have a story with them, as well. We have also read books about being thankful and giving to others. In particular we read the story "Stone Soup". This is a story about three strangers, who came to a village where no one shares or cares about others. They learned how to share what they have, so that everyone can be happy together. Along with this story, the children cut out different food items and glued them on to their own soup pots. We also discussed the food groups and what a healthy food vs an unhealthy food was. For December, we will be working on our Christmas Program songs. We will also be working on the letters 'J' and 'K'. I look forward to finding out what the children's interest will be for this month and enhancing their learning on that topic.

~Ms. Rebecca

Thank you to everyone who purchased 'See's 'Candy". The deadline to order was Friday, **Dec**. 1. The candy will be ready for pick up on **Friday**, **Dec** 15. This fundraiser will be used for our Staff's

Professional Development.



Ms. Jayna and Ms. Tresha's Preschool Class

I'd like to start off by wishing all our families a very happy holiday season. We have been exploring the fall season through art and literature. Also we have had lot's of conversations about friends and family, as they are a big part of these holiday months, as well. Our Giving Celebration was a great day. Ms. Tresha and I enjoyed the time sitting with our families and sharing such a wonderful meal. December will be very busy for us. We will be making Christmas presents and practicing for our Christmas Program. We have chosen the songs, "Happy Birthday Jesus" and "How on Earth?" to perform. The words to the songs have been sent home. Please don't hesitate to ask Ms. Tresha or myself to hear the songs, so that you can practice them with your child at home. The Christmas Program will be Dec 14 at 6:30. Please have your children in our classroom by 6:15 pm, so that we can prepare for our presentation. Thanks, in advance, and I hope your families have the most blessed of holidays. ~ Ms. Jayna

Ms. Shirley and Mrs. Swati's Toddlers

In November we had fun learning about be-🕟 ing thankful and respectful. We are thankful for our moms and dads, brothers and sisters, food and home, friends and toys, our teachers too, and all the special things that God has provided us with. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Children had fun making placemats and turkey centerpieces with pumpkins. I hope you all enjoyed them, on your Thanksgiving dinner table. Children loved exploring and pretend to cook with pumpkins in the dramatic play area. We talked about the different kinds, sizes and colors of pumpkins. We even tried measuring the pumpkins. The children also experienced scooping the seeds out. They also had fun shucking corn and talking about the different parts; the husk, kernels, and hair or silk. We even talked about the different ways corn is used. They were very helpful in mixing and stirring the batter for our delicious corn bread.

December is a month that we all happily look forward to. In this busy month, we 💸 will talk about a variety of holiday celebra-💸 tions and Jesus' birth. We will also talk 💦 about families, friends, love, giving and shar-👣 ing. We are lucky to have families from a variety of different cultures/religions who celebrate in different ways. It is so wonderful for us to be able to share our individual holiday traditions and to learn and appreciate our similarities and differences. I encourage all our families to sign-up and take some time to share your family's traditions with us. In December, we will have a Post Office in our dramatic play area. Children will have fun pretending to deliver mail and preparing gift boxes. We will also be practicing our Christmas song for the Christmas Program. Wow! has this year gone by so fast. I can't believe that it is already December. In just a few short weeks, we will be having our Christmas break.

Once again, thank you to the families that helped us with laundry and making playdough. Your support is greatly appreciated. Have a fun break and we wish all of you a Holly Jolly Christmas and a Happy New Year!! I look forward to our time together in 2018. ~ Ms. Swati

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. Thank you, also, to all those who donated spare change for our "Pennies for Turkeys" jar. I'm excited to welcome Roman Doramus (our first boy!) to our Young Toddler group, this month. Welcome Roman, Jessica (mom), Michael (dad), and Anastasia (sister)!
During the month of November, the Young
Toddlers continued to demonstrate how much
they have learned about our class routines and
about each other. They have been demonstrating empathy as they check on a friend
who is hurt or offer something they think another child is interested in. It is very sweet!
Families shared with me, that their children
are saying parts of our meal time prayer, at
home. They have also been mentioning the
names of their friends, at home and on the
way to school, eager to see them. It is so special to hear their simple communications and
to observe them holding hands or hugging one
another. In November, the Young Toddlers enjoyed exploring the farm animal play figures (mom), Michael (dad), and Anastasia (sister)! joyed exploring the farm animal play figures and puppets, and especially enjoyed songs and activities that gave them a chance to practice farm animal noises. They have all been enjoying our "Music and Movement" times, playing instruments, swinging scarves and imitating song lyrics. They especially enjoyed learning how to "circle to the left" and "circle to the right" as they would hold hands and move in a circle together, dancing to the "Barnyard Boogie". The Young Toddlers had great fun making pumpkin pies together, too. How exciting it was to start with a hard pumpkin, full of pulp and seeds, and work together to end up with a slice of soft, warm, yummy pie! Thank you Ashley (Grace's mom) for helping out with this cooking project! This month we will continue to explore foods that grow and different ways to prepare them. Food is often a big part of our family traditions and holidays, which makes this a relevant topic, extending from the children's interests. 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 Christmas 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 Christ- 🎊 ~ Cindy Bo