

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com. January 2020

Message from Ms. Maddy

Happy New Year! I am sure everyone who was able to come, see, and hear the children in the "Christmas Program", were amazed at how wonderful the children shared the joy of Christmas cheer through songs. THANK YOU to the staff and the children, who spent many days practicing their songs, in preparation for this fun family event. Also, THANK YOU to the families who brought goodies to share, after the program.

2019 was a very busy year, with many fun filled events, that fostered learning and friendships. I extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all the families that have chosen our program. It is our desire to provide the best of quality care to children by offering a low child to teacher ratio and an environment that is enriching, both inside and outside the classroom. The "National Association for the Education of Young Children" (NAEYC) sets the standards of quality, which we follow, and which continues to guide our staff. Also, we are participating in the "Quality Counts" program, provided through the San Luis Obispo Child Care Planning Council. This program will offer our staff continued education opportunities, as well as stipends for their professional and educational achievements.

The Fall Survey results are in. Overall, 93% of the families were "very satisfied" and 7% were "satisfied", with our program. According to the survey, families chose our program for these reasons: the age appropriate curriculum, socialization, long hours of operation, and low child to teacher ratio. Parent involvement is key to our schools success. 73% said they were Classroom Helpers and 80% participated in fundraisers. I greatly appreciate the all the impute for the survey. (**See the attached summary for details**).

Are you getting e-mails from me? If not, and you would like to get monthly reminders about special events and upcoming deadlines, please put your e-mail address in the tuition box for me to add to our list.

Do you need extra care from time to time? If so, fill out an "Extra Care Form", then give it to your child's teacher. She will then give it to me for approval. To assure space is available, 24 hour notice is preferable.

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 child care needs. There is always movement in childcare and spaces for children in our program are limited. With this policy in place, when a space does open up for another family, AGUMCC has ample time to notify a new family, so they too can join our program.

BIBLE STORY AND GOODIE BEAR TIME

This month, we will share the story, "Fish for Breakfast", from the Beginning Bible, John 21. Goodie Bear's "Fruit of the Spirit" message will be about "Joy". This special time will be on **Thursday, Jan. 2 at 9:05 AM, in the Church Narthex.**



Date To Remember

Monday, January 20

School is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is also the last day to order Scholastic Books .

THANK YOU, First United Methodist Church Programs that supported the Children's Center in 2019; Endowment Board, Friends of AGUMCC, and United Methodist Women. We greatly appreciate it!!

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Joy

We can have joy in the midst of a storm, as Nehemiah (8:10) reminds us that "The joy of the Lord is your strength". By assuring children that they are cared for and loved, by God and others, they can have confidence and joy, no matter what comes their way.

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

December was a whirlwind! We hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas with your friends and family. We also hope that your time off with your children was filled with laughter and love. Thank you all for the thoughtful gifts. For the month of January we will be working on the idea of the place we live and other places in the world. This is based on the interest of the children as they have been talking about where they live and where other people live in the world. Along with this emergent curriculum, we will continue working on our letters which will be 'L', 'M', and 'N', numbers, writing our names, cutting with scissors and general preparation for Kindergarten. We are sad to say "goodbye" to Ms. Ashley and will miss her in our classroom but we wish her the best.

~ Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Andrea and Ms. Elizabeth's Preschool Class

Happy New Year to all our wonderful families and children! We had a fun time in December, wrapping up 2019 with lots of holiday stories, art, and festivities. Our shape of the month was a star so many of our stories were about the bright star that led the shepherds and wisemen to the manger in Bethlehem. Our letters of the month were 'J' and 'K' so we learned lots of new holiday words like joy, jolly, kind, kings and, of course, the name of Jesus. Our color of the month was purple which we made by mixing blue and red. We also made some purple mittens that may have sprinkled some glitter on your head as you walked through the room. We had many Christmas trees to decorate, including a live one that we are watering and attempting to grow. We also baked pretend Christmas cookies with the flour, measuring spoons, and sifters in the sensory bin. To wash down the cookies, coffee was being served along with pie, waffles, and cheeseburgers at the "Kind Kids Café" in our dramatic play center. The children very much enjoyed taking each other's orders as well as cooking up the meals. Our music and movement time was spent practicing our songs for the Christmas Program. We were very proud to perform for our friends and families and were grateful to see the wonderful turn out to support us during the show! We hope you all had a joyful Christmas and look forward to kicking off 2020 with continued learning, exploring, and fun!

~ Ms. Andrea

Ms. Shirley & Mrs. Swati's Toddler

Well, it is hard to believe that 2020 is already here. Welcome back! We all hope that you had a great holiday season with friends and family. I will start the year by thanking the families that helped us with making playdough, doing our class laundry and even helping us wrap boxes as presents. Ms. Shirley and I really appreciate your efforts. December was filled with lots of holiday fun and much learning about different holidays. We celebrated and learned about a variety of traditions. Children had fun decorating

the little Christmas tree and other things in our room. They enjoyed dressing up like a mail-carrier and delivering mail and presents around the classroom. We talked about Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan and other holidays that are celebrated this time of year. This time of year, also provides lots of opportunities to talk about how we are alike, yet different and gives us opportunities to celebrate those differences by sharing our holiday traditions. Thank you to all of you who turned in your Family Traditions and Heritage forms and shared about your culture and traditions. We will be talking more about traditions and how each family celebrates their holidays differently in January. We also were very busy practicing for our Christmas Program, that we hope you enjoyed! Children had fun playing their drum sticks and singing "Jingle Bells" during the celebration. They were also delighted to wear their pajamas, have pizza and share treats with each other, on our last Friday of the year together. As we enter a new year, we will continue to see new bonds and friendships being formed and many happy faces on the playgrounds and in the classrooms each day. This month we will be talking about changes in weather that we experience, from warm to cold and even to rainy days. We will be learning about different arctic animals, like penguins and polar bears and will be making ice blocks and "glaciers" for children to explore, as well. The children always have fun trying to break up the ice blocks in the sensory tub. We will have pine cones in the science area, for the children to explore, as well. The children will continue to practice taking the lead, as they take responsibility for their jobs, such as "Line Leader", "Teacher Helper" etc. I wish you all a successful and fun filled 2020 ahead!!!

~ Ms. Swati

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

I hope that you enjoyed some special time with your families and that your children (and perhaps you, too) are eager and ready to return to school. Thank you to those who participated in the Christmas Program. The children did a great job of drumming their drum sticks to "The Drummer Boy", jingling their bells to "Jingle Bells" and looking adorable in their special holiday outfits. Also, thanks to all who supported us through the sale of See's Candy. We appreciate it! It is 2020 and I anticipate a great year together, with this very special group. In January, I will pay attention to the groups interests and try to provide curriculum that is built upon them. We will likely notice changes in our outdoor environment, such as the effects of the wind and rain or changes in the clouds. As we witness some of God's awesome wonders, such as these, there is opportunity for the children to learn new vocabulary, learn about cause and effect, and more. I look forward to observing the children's joy, as we share these learning experiences together. Blessings to all for an exceptional New Year!

~ Cindy Bo