

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com/agumcc.html MARCH 2020

Message from Ms. Maddy

Spring is coming and it's time for renewing our gardens. Children will be very involved in this process, as they cultivate the ground, bring plants to plant, and watch them grow. *The gardens are an important part of our learning experience, here at AGUMCC.* The children learn to care for and appreciate the wonders of life and the delicate balance of nature. The garden also provides science, at its best, with the budding of foliage, the buzzing of insects, the blooming of flowers, and the harvesting of fruits and vegetables. We will also have a **WORK DAY** to tend to our gardens before **OPEN HOUSE**. (see dates below for these two events.)

Come to our FAMILY FUN NIGHT!! Regatta Race and Boat Show, Friday 13, 2020. This is also a fundraiser event that will help provide the funds needed to send our staff to the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC) Conference on April 23-25th. Dinner tickets for this FUN EVENT already went out. Adult tickets are \$8 each and kids meals are \$5 each. Dinner will start at 6:30 PM and will include pizza, salad, and beverages. **What a deal!!** The Racing will begin at 7:00 PM. Get your boat TODAY! All ages can race. To register and purchase your AGUMCC boat, fill out the attached form. Boats are \$5. **Sorry, no outside boats allowed.** Watch for weekly up-dates on the racing brackets to see who will be racing in each category. The Race Bracket will be posted on the entrance hallway bulletin board. Show off your artistic talents and enter the **Boat Show**, too. You can vote for your favorite boat by purchasing voter tickets at the event. \$5 will give you 6 opportunities to cast your vote. There will be an adult class and children's class. The Boat show winners will receive \$25 off tuition in April. **We need many hands to make this event fun for everyone.** The success of every event, here at AGUMCC, is made possible by the support of all our wonderful volunteers.

It's Enrollment time!! Current families can register for our next session which starts July 1, 2020. Registration is \$150 per student and is due by March 16th. See me for an additional "Registration Form", if you have a second child on our "Waiting List". As a current family member, you will be able to register them, at this time, too. I will contact families, not currently enrolled, and on our "Waiting List", starting April 1. Most of our new families start with us in the toddler groups. A few families will join us in the preschool and Pre-K groups, as well. We look forward to welcoming these new families to our program.

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for March: Gentleness

At school, children are often reminded of the importance of being gentle with things and each other. We will have a special focus on gentleness, as we plant and care for our gardens this month. We are encouraged in the book of Philipians to "Let your gentleness be known to all men" (Phil. 4:5)

ITS TIME TO RENEW OUR GARDENS

We invite you to bring any non-toxic plant, for your child to plant. New plants are always a great addition to our play yards. Please check with your child's teacher to find out their scheduled class planting days.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT UP COMING EVENTS * ENROLLMENT TIME & FAMILY CONFERENCE TIME*

March

- Friday, March 6 - **Staff Development and Spirit Day.** Wear your school T-shirt to show your school spirit. There is no "Extended Care" on this Day. School Closes at 3:30 PM.
- Friday, March 13 - **Family Fun Night, Regatta Race and Boat Show.** 6:30- 8:00 PM
- Monday, March 16 - **REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CURRENT FAMILIES.**
- Saturday, March 29 - **"WORK DAY"** We will be working in the gardens, 9:00 - 12:00 noon.

April

- Tuesday, April 7 - **AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE,** 6:30-7:30 PM.
- Wednesday, April 8 - **HERITAGE POT LUCK LUNCH.** This is a minimum day. **School is closed at noon.**
- Thurs. & Fri., April 9 & 10 - **School is closed for Holy Thursday and Good Friday.**
- Thurs. & Fri., April 23- & 24 - **School is Closed for Staff Development** to attend the CAEYC Conference in Pasadena, California.

March is the time to register your child for the next school year;

July 1, 2020 - June 25, 2021.

Registration Information will be going out this month. The deadline, for current families to register, is Monday, March 16.

Families on our "Waiting List" may register, starting Wednesday, April 1 and general enrollment will begin Friday, May 1.

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

February was a very busy month. The children have been working hard on making special portfolios for you to see at our Parent Teacher Conferences. Some of the items they worked on were their cutting skills, alphabet knowledge, writing their names, number concepts and putting letters together to spell a word. Rebecca and I look forward to meeting with you to talk about your child's progress and what the next steps will be in their development and getting them ready for Kindergarten. Also, in the month of February, the children were very excited to make "Friendship Boxes" for their Valentines. They used the dramatic play area for a Post Office and learned about packaging and letter distribution. We also continued to learn about animals that lay eggs. Thank you to everyone who helped our class celebrate "Friendship", with our lunch party on February 12. Again, we look forward to seeing you at your child's conference this month, so please sign up on the conference sign-up sheets. We want to thank Krista Chang, Leia's mom, for bringing the presentation on their trip to Hawaii and on the Chinese New Year.

~Ms. Mary

Ms. Daphne and Ms. Maddy's Preschool Class

Good-bye to February, we had a fun packed month with our wonderful 'Friendship Celebration', learning about friendship and learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and his message of kindness. The class also learned about Chinese New Years and practiced using chopsticks. The class had fun making crescent moons, painting with sticks we found on a walk, and doing cutting work. We also learned about how animals live during the winter cold. We learned about black and white, light and dark. March starts us off with spring flowers and plants. We will be learning about things around us that we need to be gentle with and the opportunities we have for showing gentleness throughout our day. We will be practicing our new letters this month, 'r', 's', and 't', along with

learning more about the number 8. We are continuing have our quiet moment during the week for about 1½ minutes per day. The children seem to love this quiet time. We are also discussing what they've heard while being quiet. We are looking forward to another great month.

~Ms. Daphne



Ms. Shirley and Mrs. Swati's Toddlers

We want to welcome two new friends and their families, Claire and Reese, who have joined our class. Welcome! During the month of February children had lots of fun mailing letters and making beautiful flower arrangements in the dramatic play area. They enjoyed fun filled art projects/collages using the heart shape. Children have been exploring cardboard boxes, using them as trains, houses, and more. They have also been having fun wearing capes and pretending to fly around the courtyard. In February, we also talked about all the special people we love, both family members and friends. Children enjoyed touching and feeling ice in our sensory tub; even painting with ice. We talked about animals that live in winter cold and different ways that they adapt to survive. We have been encouraging more cooperative play by doing activities like floor puzzles. Our Friendship Party was a great success. The children really enjoyed having their families here and sharing delicious treats. We are enjoying the changing weather which ties right in to the coming of "Spring". Children are watching the trees in the backyard filling up with new leaves. We will soon be working in our gardens to plant new flowers and vegetables. They will practice patience as seeds start spouting and we will talk about different changes that happen when plants start to grow. We will also talk about farm animals and how things grow on a farm. This month, the children will practice gentle touches and kind words with each other. We would like to express our appreciation to the Ortiz family for doing our class laundry and the Patching family for volunteering their help in making playdough. We welcome and would appreciate any additional volunteers, as well.

~Ms. Swati

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

To those of you who were able to join our group and bring food for our "Friendship Breakfast", thank you for participating and creating a special experience for your children! This month, we plan to help out with our school garden beds, by planting some new flowers and vegetables and tending them, when needed. This means time spent working with dirt and water: two things we know the children enjoy a lot. The young toddlers are growing so much! It is exciting to see how much they've grown and developed over the last several months. They are using their language skills, regularly, are wanting to do many things themselves, that they needed help doing before, and are gaining many strengths in their fine and large motor skills, as well. I look forward to time, sharing more about this with you, during our parent teacher conferences this month! Blessings always!

~Cindy Bo

BIBLE STORY & GOODIE BEAR TIME

Children will hear the story of "The Good Samaritan", from Luke 10:30-35, in the Beginning Bible. "Goodie Bear" will share a "Fruit of the Spirit" teaching on "Gentleness". Ask your child about this wonderful time we will be sharing together, on **Wednesday and Thursday, March 6 and 7, at 9:05 AM, in the Church Narthex.**