

# Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center [www.worshipweekly.com/agumcc.html](http://www.worshipweekly.com/agumcc.html) MARCH 2021

## 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. New plants are always a great addition to our play yards. Please check with your child's teacher to find out if his/her class will have a special planting days. If so your child can bring a non-toxic plant, to plant at school like strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce, herbs, beans, pansies, sunflowers, zinnias, bulb plants, to name a few.

We will have a **School Improvement WORK DAY** for parents and staff to tend to our gardens. There will be a sign up for volunteers. (See dates below for this event.)

**It's Enrollment time!!** Current families can register for our next session which starts July 6, 2021. Registration is \$150 per student and is due by March 19th. See me for an additional "Registration Form" if you have a second child on our "Waiting List". Current family member can also register siblings in March. 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 Class. A few families will join us in the Preschool and Pre-K Class as well. We look forward to welcoming new families and current families continue with our program.

**It is always good to plan ahead when looking for a quality program.** We pride ourselves on having an educated staff who have a love for and commitment to young children. Also, we work hard at creating quality interactive environments, both in the classroom and outside. We follow standards set by the following evaluative and assessment tools: Environmental Rating Scale, Desired Results, Classroom Assessment System, and Ages and Stages.

**Effect July 1, 2021, there will be \$1 a day Tuition Increase.** The increase will help keep AGUMCC open and manage the rising cost of supplies, utilities, and staffing along with demands brought on by COVID regulations.

**March is Parent/Teacher Conference time.** Conferences provide a great opportunity for teachers and families to spend about 30 minutes sharing information about your child's growth and development since the fall. It is also a time to review goals and reflect on achievements and set new goals to work towards.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

### \* ENROLLMENT TIME & FAMILY CONFERENCE TIME\*

#### March

- Friday, March 5 - **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.
- Monday, March 19 - **REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CURRENT FAMILIES.**
- Saturday, March 27 - **"PARENT/STAFF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY"** We will be working in the gardens, 9:00 - 12:00 noon.
- Wednesday, March 31 - This is a minimum day. **School is closed at noon.**

#### April

- Thurs. & Fri., April 1 & 2 - **School is closed for Holy Thursday and Good Friday.**
- Fri., April 23 - **School is Closed for Staff Development to attend the CAEYC Conference.**

## Thank you to our March

Friends of the Children's Center Sponsor

## Robert Underwood

*Retired Pastor of the First United Methodist Church. He founded AGUMCC which opened July of 2005.*

## BIBLE STORY TIME

**Bible Story** from the Beginning Bible is: **"The Good Samaritan"**, Luke 10:30-35,

**Fruit of the Spirit** teaching is **"Gentleness"**.

**Bible Verse:** "Let your gentleness be known to all" (Phil. 4:5)

At school, children are often reminded the importance of being gentle with things and each other.

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

**July 6, 2021 - June 24, 2022.**

Registration Information will be going out this month. The deadline, for current families to register, is Monday, March 19.

Families on our "Waiting List" may register, starting Wednesday, April 1. General enrollment begins Friday, May 1.

### **Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Andrea's Pre-K Class**

February was a fast month, but we accomplished quite a lot in a short amount of time. 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. They also spent some time challenging their gross motor and locomotor skills by jumping as far as they could, standing on one foot for as long as possible, and running while kicking a ball.

Coming up in March, we will be doing our Zoo Phonics lessons on the letters Qq, Rr, and Ss, as well as continuing to work on patterns and introducing some rhyming word activities. Plus spring is soon upon us, so we look forward to spending more time outside and learning about the life cycle of plants and butterflies.

Ms. Andrea 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. Keep an eye out for sign up sheets during drop off and pick up, as well as through Child Pilot.

~Ms. Rebecca

### **Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Swati's Preschool Class**

Welcome Springtime! As we welcome March we realize how much has changed in a year. Last year, March 2020, the novel coronavirus began making an impact on our daily lives. That became most apparent with the closure of our school in 2020 from March until September. Now, we have settled into the new norm of social distancing and wearing a mask. We wonder when it will end and we all experienced the frustration in February when the preschool had to close again. Luckily this gave everyone time to get their COVID-19 test, a clean bill of health and do some extra cleaning. This month looks forward to new beginnings with our celebration of springtime which focuses on plants and flowers.

This is my favorite time of the year where the children plant seeds, explore plant life cycles, and learn what a plant needs to grow.

March is also Parent/Teacher conferences where we get the opportunity to meet and discuss all the growth your child has done. Here we will compare Fall conferences and the areas your child has mastered and areas they are working on. This is a great time to meet with your child's teacher and important for us to meet the needs of your child.. The assessments have been done through March, and conferences will be the 3rd and 4th week of March. Look to Child Pilot for updates to available dates and times to meet. We will be offering an in person conference or a Zoom meeting that will last about 20 minutes. Thank you for all of your patience and understanding.

In light and Learning, ~Miss Elizabeth Ann Key

### **Ms. Shirley and Ms. Cindy Bo's Toddlers**

March is here and springtime is in the air. Days will be getting warmer and longer since this month is Daylight Savings time, beginning on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Children have been enjoying February's activities in the classroom. Playing doctor and nurse with stethoscopes and syringes has been fun for all, especially when the teachers pretend to be sick. The children practiced their fine motor skills with multicolored hearts and tongs in their sensory bins. They painted with giant plastic bugs by stamping prints on paper, and we had bug hunts inside and outside the classroom. As we counted how many legs the bugs have, the children noticed that spiders have more. Our classroom was filled with hearts everywhere, as the children learned about love, and how much God loves us. They sang "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children". Love was sure evident as we talked about "loving one another". In March, Cindy Bo and I are excited to see what spring will bring. In the backyard the children will get to experience the life cycle of the butterfly in the bushes along the fence in the backyard. Conferences will also be happening this month. Cindy Bo and I will soon be in touch to schedule meeting times. Your children have grown so much and we are excited to share with you all of their accomplishments. Your children are a precious gift from God and are a joy to us as teachers. Blessings. ~Ms.

