

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.agumcc.org April 2024

Message from Ms. Maddy

Welcome Spring! We have many activities planned this month. To start, we will have a **Pancake Breakfast** sponsored by the **Custom House** on Saturday, April 6th from 9 to 11 am. **Tickets are \$10** for pancakes, eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, orange juice, and coffee. **To purchase your tickets, please stop by the Children's Center office.** AGUMCC gets 50% of the proceeds. Our goal is to raise \$1,000. We ask each family to sell or buy at least 5 tickets to help us reach our goal. The family that sells the most tickets will win a sweatshirt for the Custom House. We will also have a 50/50 drawing and an Opportunity Drawing. Please share this community event with family and friends. The proceeds will help the staff attend the California Association for the Education of Young Children's Conference in Pasadena on April 19 -21, 24.

This month, we will be hosting an **OPEN HOUSE** on Thursday, April 11, from 6:00 to 7:00. You can visit your child's classroom and then the classroom your child will be in starting July 1, 2024. Children will show their families around the classroom to share the importance of play, exploration, and learning that occurs each day in the different classroom areas and the many activities they can do.

We will also have an **Art Show and Ice Cream Social** on Sunday, April 28th. Each class will make a cooperative art piece to be sold through the Silent Auction. Anyone can get a bidding number from Ms. Maddy and start bidding on April 12th. Bidding ends Sunday, April 28, at noon in Criswell Hall.

Our program is truly blessed by families who have chosen our program for their child's early childhood education and care. Tell others about our program. Our Preschool and TK classes have openings for the next session starting Monday July 1, 2024.

Now that current families have registered for our next session, I will contact families on our "Waiting List" to enroll them in our program. Families not on our "Waiting List" can enroll in May. If you have another child or a sibling already enrolled, please contact me if you are interested in them joining our program or putting them on our "Waiting List."

It is always good to plan when looking for a quality program. We pride ourselves on having an educated staff who love and commit to young children's development. Also, we create interactive environments, in the classroom and outside. **Thank you to the staff, the families, the church, and the board members for all their time and dedication to making this a great program!**

Thank you to our April

Friends of the Children's Center Sponsor:

Criag Ford



APRIL is New Life & Springtime Discovery
Things that slither, fly, crawl, and hop. Oh My!



DATES TO REMEMBER

- * **SAT. APRIL 6TH IS PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Fundraiser at Custom House in Avila
- * **THURS. APRIL 11TH OPEN HOUSE**
from 6:00-7-700
- * **FRI. APRIL 19TH IS A MIMIMUM DAY.**
for staff development
- * **SUN. APRIL 28 11:30 -12:00**
Children's Center Sunday Art show, Silent Auction,
& Ice Cream Social

BIBLE STORYTIME AND GOODIE BEAR

Our story, from the Beginning Bible this month is "**Jesus is Risen**", from Matthew 28:5-10.

"Fruit of the Spirit" is **Goodness.** "Do good and share with others is pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16



Ms. Elvia's TK

I had a wonderful time meeting with all of you for Spring teacher/ parent conferences. We discussed your children's progress and talked about their transition to kindergarten. I greatly appreciate your valuable time. In March, the children enjoyed the dramatic area inside the



TK classroom, which was turned into a "Construction zone." The Children enjoyed nailing golf tees into a foam pad using a hammer and are even making a rainbow by lining up the golf tees according to the colors.

The sensory bin was given a touch of St. Patrick's Day with golden rocks, shamrocks, and coins. Also in the bin were colorful Orbis, which the children enjoyed feeling. They said they felt "squishy, soft, and wet." In addition, the children sorted the Orbis by color and size and counted how many they found. In the manipulative area, children liked the gold pot containing necklaces, green shamrocks, golden and silver coins, and golden and turquoise rocks. Children have a great time sorting the different items into categories and describing the colors they saw on them. Children also used those loose parts to create a leprechaun trap along with the blocks and had many amazing ideas of how they would catch the leprechaun.

Children painted and cut out their shamrocks during artwork by mixing yellow and blue colors to make green. They created a tiger by painting a T template and adding stripes with a fork. For the letter Ss, they colored a letter S template with tempura stick crayons. They got really creative and said their S were venomous snakes, and some were Cobras or Rattlesnakes. Then, children were interested in learning about rattlesnakes, and we watched videos about different types of snakes.

April is upon us, which means Spring is here! During April, we will do our Zoo Phonics letters X, Y, and Z, continue working with the sounds, and come up with words that begin with the week's letter. We will also introduce the shape of the Hexagon and talk about how many sides and corners it has. In addition, we will continue to practice writing out the numbers and their first and last names. Moreover, we will spend time learning about the life cycles of plants and butterflies. Lastly, we will have an "Art Show" in which the children will collaborate to create a beautiful piece of artwork and learn about the artist.

Ms. Swati and Ms. Liz's Preschool Class

April is here, and so is the Spring weather! This year is going by fast. This month, we are focusing on things that grow. We will learn about different bugs that children discover outside in the backyard and courtyard. We will plant seeds and watch them grow. We will talk about some fun vocabulary words like pollination.

Thank you to all the families for meeting with teachers regarding our child during our Springtime conferences. It gave us a chance to touch base about children's growth and learning experiences.

To help your child with healthy practices, we are giving extra reminders to the children to cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing. We tell them to use their "wings" to cover their mouths. Please reinforce this habit at home. Another thing children are learning to do is

to blow their noses. This is especially true for this time of year. Many of our friends have allergies, and practicing this skill at home will help your child be successful in doing this on their own at school.

At Open House, we can't wait to show parents around our preschool classroom and the amazing artwork/projects the children have been working on. This month, children will be learning about different artists. Our class will work on Kandinsky circles and bottle flowers for canvas art. Children will learn about artists like Monet, Kandinsky, Andy Warhol, and Jackson Pollock this month. Children will be expressing the work of these artists through their art. The art will be displayed in Criswall Hall on Sunday, April 28.

I appreciate all the support from the families. Thanks, Ms. Swati and Ms. Liz

Ms. Shirley and Ms. Cindy Bo's Toddlers

Welcome Spring! It is nice to see some sunny days again. The toddlers have had fun experiencing and exploring the effects of the rainy days yet are also enjoying this season of new growth and life that has followed. They notice the budding flowers and the increase of bugs, snails, etc., in our outdoor spaces.



In March, the children enjoyed role-playing doctors and patients, caring for each other's injuries and ailments, and using all the doctor tools that were available in the classroom. During a Band-Aid art activity, they doctored up the injuries they had drawn and painted on a drawing of the person. Miss Shirley introduced the group to the "Gospel Fuzzies," who "tell us of God's love" as we anticipated the celebration of Jesus' resurrection day. The children had great fun shouting out the color of each Fuzzy before we sang about what each color meant. Another song the children had fun singing was "God's Not Dead." What toddler doesn't want to sing "No, no, no, no, no," which is how that song begins? Many of the children requested Music & Movement songs to be played at times other than our Music & Movement time and were excited about the opportunity to dance with their friends. They also had a great time working with their playdough, exploring their sensory tubs, playing the "Running Game," and more.

This month, we will follow the children's interests in exploring new life, plant growth, and other springtime discoveries. We hope you enjoyed the wheatberry baskets the children planted and watered before sending them home. They will also plant beans in baggies so they can observe them sprout and watch them grow in the classroom windows.

Shirley and I always appreciate you taking the time to meet with us for parent-teacher conferences. It is truly a blessing to partner with you in supporting your child's growth and development. ~ Thank you, Cindy Bo

Wish List

- ◆ Gallon jugs of Bubble Solution
- ◆ 5 oz paper drink cups
- ◆ Case of Wipes
- ◆ Box of individual bags of Cheeze Itz