

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

April 2009

Message from Maddy

Spring is here and it is "The Month of the Young Child". Our school has many activities planned for the month including "Children's Center Sunday" on April 19th. The Preschool and Pre-K children will be singing a song at the 10:30 service, followed by our "Annual Spring BBQ" from 11:30 -2:30. The BBQ, this year, will help raise money to purchase needed materials for the classrooms. Also, on this special day, there will be a benefit concert for "The San Luis Band", from 3:00-5:00 PM, in the church sanctuary. Many volunteers are needed to make this day a success. Please sign up on the "BBQ Sign Up Sheet", on the Sign In /Out table, if you can help. There will be a Planning Meet on Tuesday, April 14th, 6:30 -7:30 PM, in Room 4, to work on the final details before the big event.

The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center opened it's doors in September 2005 with 3 children and currently have 50 children enrolled. **Our summer and fall enrollment/registration takes place in April.** The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll this year will be on Friday April 10th. After April 15th, we will begin contacting families on our waiting list to let them know if there will be space available for them in our summer and/or fall program. Toddler families account for most of our new enrollment. They are able to enroll because of space made available when the current toddlers move to our preschool class. When these children transition, there are only a few spaces left for new families to enroll in our preschool. The Pre-K class only has a few spaces for new families as well because of it's popularity. Our Pre-K program follows the Pre-K Guidelines set by the Department of Education which is designed to help children to successfully transition in to Kindergarten..

It is always good to plan ahead when looking for a quality program. We pride ourselves on having an educated staff that have a love for and commitment to teach young children. Also, we work hard on creating an environment that stands for quality. **Thank you to the staff, the families, and the church and board members, for all their time and dedication in making this a great program.**

A SPECIAL THANKS to the Children's Center staff and to Tracy and Matt Regusci for giving of their time and talent during "Love and Logic". Also, thank you to Adeline for washing the laundry every week and to Stephanie O'Reilly who donated toys and art supplies to Room 2.

Theme for The Month:

New Life and Spring-time Discovery

Things that slither, fly, crawl, and hop, oh my!



Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Goodness

"If you are wise and understand God's ways, live a life of steady **goodness** so that only good deeds will pour forth"

James 3:3

Dates to Remember

- **Friday April 3** — STAFF DEVELOPMENT School closes at 3:30
- **Tuesday, April 7** - OPEN HOUSE WITH SUMMER AND FALL ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- **Thursday, April 9**—SPRING POT LUCK/SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 12:00. Sign out your child and join us for lunch in the courtyard.
- **Friday, April 10**—SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.
- **Tuesday, April 14**—BBQ PLANNING MEETING 6:30 -7:30 PM
- **Sunday, April 19** — CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY, SPRING BBQ, BOOK FAIR, AND BENEFIT CONCERT. See flyer for details.

JUST AHEAD: May is the month for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Ms. Katelynn and Ms. Maddy's Pre-K Class

We hope to see everyone at our 3rd annual spring event, Children's Center Sunday. We will be practicing a special song to sing at the 10:30 service on this very special day. Spring is here. Thank you to all the families last month for bringing seeds and plants to help make our learning about how plants grow so much fun. This month we will be learning about new life and bugs. In math our number is '9' and we will work on finding sets of threes. We will continue to explore patterns and shapes as well as work with weights and measurements. Our letters this month will be 'W' - 'Z' which will be the completion of all the Zoo Phonics sounds. Also, this is the month to call your area schools and find out when "Kindergarten Round Up" will be for your child. Look out Kindergarten here we come!

- Ms. Maddy

Ms. Nichole and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

Springtime is here!! Our class welcomed Alyssa Avalos to our school and we want to wish Serafina and her family the best as she begins her new school in San Luis Obispo. The teachers had a great time at the conference. Now we are eagerly anticipating our family Spring BBQ and Book Fair on the 19th. We are looking forward to learning more about how things grow as we watch the plants and flowers we planted grow until they blossom and some are ready to harvest (Thank you for all of your donations of plants). We used seeds in an art activity, expanding on our theme, and the children's work can be seen in the classroom. This month we are learning about new life, bugs, and the fruit of the spirit "Goodness". We are also going to be using pastel colors in our art activities and are excited to see the children's wonderful creations. The children and teachers look forward to another great month of learning and fun.

- Mr. Paul

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers

Our classroom was filled with barnyard sounds last month as every child showed us just how each animal sounds. We learned about some of the less well

known farm animals like the goat and the goose and the children were eager to learn the sounds they made too. We had a very fun and noisy time of it all. The children also enjoyed squishing in the mud we had in our sensory tub, like the farm animals in a classroom favorite "Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Road" by Lynn Plourde and John Schoenherr. The children and staff are grateful for all the plants that you donated last month. We really enjoyed planting them and will also enjoy watching them grow. This will help us in our learning about and celebration of new life this month. We will be talking about new life, the metamorphosis of the caterpillar to a butterfly, other bugs and insects and more about how plants, animals, and people grow.

- Ms. Tierra

Ms. Lori's Young Toddlers

We started out the month of March with how things grow on the farm and then it **HAPPENED**; two things changed. First we were unable to add the egg incubator, for egg hatching, due to a problem with an overloaded circuit. So, on we went to learn about the farm. We had sensory with dirt, rakes and shovels, books, plants, animals and songs then, all of the sudden, it **HAPPENED**. The second change **HAPPENED** when an innocent young toddler showed his teacher the elephant on his shirt and, to expand on his sharing, she pulled out an elephant that matched. Everyone was so excited, she added more animals, books, animal blocks, and picture cards. In a flash, the toddlers had a new learning opportunity. This was done on purpose, by doing observations to see what the toddler's were interested in. When a teacher sets up **HAPPENINGS**, she will expand experiences and, in turn, add knowledge. Toddler curriculum does not follow traditional preschool practices. It follows the child's natural curiosity and interest. We also enjoyed measuring and learning about volume and color. Look for our new colors on the floor. We added lime green and light blue.

- Ms. Lori