

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Ms. Maddy

We invite everyone to celebrate the season by coming to our **Children's Holiday Program**. Children will sing songs that reflect the interest of the children, families, and staff. The program will be held in the sanctuary and will last about 20 minutes. The program will be followed by a time of sharing in friendship and enjoying goodies, brought by the families, in Criswell Hall. Our theme this month is "Celebration of Traditions". Please contact your child's Teacher/Caregiver if your family has a tradition that you would like to share with your child's classmates. We hope everyone feels welcomed and connected here, as we invite you to share your own traditions with us. I look forward to the New Year, fostering relationships with the children and families, supporting a dedicated staff, and providing the best care we can to children in our community.

We still have a few **openings in our program**, both full and part-time. If you know of someone in need of child-care, have them check out our website, at www.worshipweekly.com, for more information about us. Ms. Maddy is available, by appointment, to families who would like to tour our great program. To schedule an appointment please call 481-2223.

Thank you to the families, friends, and staff that have been using the "eScript program". We earn \$\$\$, for our school, when you shop at any Vons Store, using your Vons card that is linked to our school. Our school # is **500020780**. If you are not enrolled in the eScript program, we've attached an "eScript" form, for your convenience, to register your Vons card. To maximize your contributions through the "eScript" program, you can find out at www.escrip.com, which merchants participate. For more information regarding the "eScript" program, contact Ms. Lori in Rm 1. You can place your completed form in the "Tuition Box", Thank you.

December is the time for our **Scholastic Book Fair**. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help out during the week of Dec 14-18. Please contact Greta Robbins at 550-3615 to volunteer and earn \$10.00 in free books.

Dates to remember

- **Staff Development Friday Dec. 4**
School will close at 3:30 PM
- **Holiday Book Fair Dec. 14 -18** in Criswell Hall during school hours (See scheduled hours)
- **Children's Holiday Program & Social Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:30 PM** in the Church Sanctuary (Children arrive in classrooms at 6:15). Social to follow in Criswell Hall
- **Pajama Day Friday, Dec 18** Wear your favorite pajamas to school.
- **School Closed for Winter Break Monday, Dec. 21 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010** (Children return to school on Monday, Jan. 4, 2010)

Theme for The Month "Celebration of Traditions"



Fruit of The Spirit: Peace

How can we be peace makers in our homes and at school? We are going to be learning about using our words and being role models for others. We will be sharing stories like, "You are Special" and, a classic, "The Mitten", to help illustrate how we all can be peace makers.

Blessings to all this holiday season!

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

We enjoyed seeing everyone at our "Giving Soup" celebration last month. The children enjoyed trying pumpkin pie and sorting differences in fruits and vegetables. For math we worked on one to one correspondence up to four. In the month of December we will be channeling some of the enthusiasm to learn about the different meanings of some of our favorite family holiday traditions. If you would like to share your family tradition with our class, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca. Also, we will be looking at zoo-phonics letters J and K this month. We hope to see everyone at our Holiday Program where we are sure to warm the hearts of everyone with a special song we are practicing. As we look back on 2009 we have so many things to be thankful for and we look forward to the many blessings that lie ahead.

-Ms. Nichole

Ms. Anna and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

With all the fun and learning we have done in the past weeks, we find that 2010 is upon us. In November, we had fun learning about feelings, fall harvest vegetables, oval and crescent shapes, letters, numbers and colors. Now we are looking forward to learning about peace and the celebration of holiday traditions. If you have a tradition from your family you wish to share, please talk to me or Ms. Anna about it. This month we will learn to identify the shape of a star and the numbers 7 & 8. The colors for art will be green and red. The class will use pinecones as a share item. If your child finds one feel free to let them share it with the class. We want to thank all of the families that helped with fundraising and the Giving Celebration and to remind you that school will not be

in session during the week of Christmas through New Year's Day.

-Mr. Paul

Ms. Lori and Ms. Tierra's Toddler Class

The theme for this December is sharing family traditions. The philosophy of Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center is that "while preserving the integrity of our Christian identity, we respect diverse religions and cultural backgrounds of all people" We want to invite you to share items during the school day that represent the traditions and culture in your family. Please bring in any photos and /or materials that represent how your family's traditions may be celebrated at home or with extended family. This is a wonderful time for the toddlers to learn more about other cultures in a fun way. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Program while we listen to the children sing and watch them perform. After the program, the staff and families gather to nibble on holiday treats and enjoy conversation. Have a safe and fun holiday. We trust you will enjoy time with family and friends and we will see you next year. Wishing all our families a Happy Holiday and a Blessed New Year.

-Ms. Lori

Cindy Bo's Younger Toddler Class

We will continue to give thanks as this month reminds us of the incredible gifts God has blessed us with, recognizing the value of family and friends in our celebrations and traditions. There are often a lot of activities going on this time of year that can be stressful for everyone, including the children. This is why we will do our best to provide a consistent and predictable experience for the toddlers in our program. After all, they learn best through the simplest of things, exploration and discovery. Keep this in mind as you think about gift giving as well. Simple "passive toys" such as a ball, a book or blocks can offer hours of pleasure as opposed to an "active toy" such as a battery operated one that is enjoyed one day and tossed aside the next. Sometimes the box and wrapping paper are a better gift than the gift itself. May peace and joy be yours!

-Cindy Bo

Thank you to everyone who purchased or helped the staff sell See's Candy. The money we raised will help the staff attend the annual professional development conference in April.

We are continuing the "Pennies for Turkeys" fundraiser to help our local food bank. Every classroom has a jar to put donations in. Also, we are collecting non-perishable unopened food items to continue in the spirit of giving and sharing with others. There is a basket for your donations located under the "Sign In /Out Table".