

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Ms. Maddy

Happy New Year! We now have the results of our Survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete it. Your responses will help us to improve our program. 100 % of the parents surveyed were "Very Satisfied" with the overall quality of our program. 83% of the parents attended a parent teacher conference. 50 % of the parents would like more volunteer opportunities to help with activities in or outside the classroom. 91 % of the parents chose our program for socialization and the curriculum. 25% of the parents would like more information on child development, socialization, nutrition and lunch ideas. Thank you for adding your personal comments on how our school has been a positive, safe experience, providing support for your families as well as being filled with love and fun for your children.

I am sure everyone who was able to come, see, and hear the children in the "Holiday Program" were amazed at how wonderful the children shared the joy of holiday cheer through traditional songs. Many thanks to all who made the Holiday Program a success! Thank you to the families who brought goodies to share after the event and to the staff for their dedication in helping the children prepare for this fun family event. I would also like to thank Jordan, who ran the sound for the program, Hilary Henderson who lead the Holiday Bell Choir, Gary Alan Hughes, who took pictures of the event for our web pages, and Travis Avila for making a DVDs of the program for our families to purchase. You can see pictures of the event, on our web page at www.worshipweekly.com, the link is "Children's Center".

We have two up coming family fun events planned. Both events will help the staff raise funds needed to attend the California Association for the Education of Children (CAEYC) conference in Long Beach. The first event is a "Spaghetti Dinner and Regatta Painting Party", to be held Thursday January 28, to prepare for our "Rain Gutter Regatta Races" in February. The "Spaghetti Dinner" tickets are \$5.00 a plate and you can purchase your regatta boat, at the dinner, for \$5.00, as well. The dinner will start at 6:30PM, boat preparation and painting will follow. The evening will end about 7:30 PM. Our second event will be the actual "Rain Gutter Regatta Races" on Friday, February 19. This evening will start at 6:30 PM with dinner and the races will begin about 7:00 PM. This event provides our families another opportunity to have fun, build new friendships, and strengthen the heart of our school community.

Theme For The Month:

Dates To Remember



**Discovering Our Winter Wonderland,
Arctic Animals and Weather**

- Thursday, January 15 - Scholastic Book Fair Orders are due
- Monday, January 18 - School is closed for Martin Luther King
- Thursday, January 28 - Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser at 6:30PM and Paint Your Regatta Party at 7:00PM
- Friday(6-9:00PM) & Saturday(8:30-11:30AM), January 22 & 23 - First Aid, CPR, Defibulator Renewal Training

* **A Joyful and Peaceful 2010 to** *

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Joy

We can have joy in the midst of a storm, as Nehemiah (8:10) reminds us that "The joy of the Lord is your strength". By assuring children that they are cared for and loved, by God and others, they can have confidence and joy, no matter what comes their way. We will be sharing stories such as *I Like Myself* and *Being Friends*. These stories illustrate the

Thank you to Greta Robbins for organizing the Holiday Book Fair and to all the parents that volunteered to sell books!

Thank you to Tom Fgan, Ms. Rebecca, Tom Stieger, Frika Warren, Kyla Huckerby, Robin Hardcastle, and Greta Robbins, Kassondra Quaglino, and Ms. Maddy for helping out during the "Work Days so we could paint the Preschool Room and Pre-K room during the Holiday Break .

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

Happy New Year! As we embark on 2010, our Pre-K class focus is on the "Winter World", watching the weather, and learning about emotions (With special attention to the emotion of Joy). The letters this month that we will be focusing on are 'L', 'M', and 'N'. Please continue to bring share items related to these letters. This activity helps with phonic awareness and recognition of the first letter of a word. We will also continue with numbers 11 through 13 and work on patterns (ABC), classification by attributes, and problem solving. We will continue to work on social interactions with peers, including identifying and expressing feelings. Our class is so grateful to all of the families who donated books to our classroom! We can not thank our families enough for all of their support and help. Thank you. - Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Anna and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

Happy New Year! We had a great 2009 and are looking forward to continuing the fun and learning in 2010. Our class has grown in size, knowledge and camaraderie. We will continue to work on letter and number recognition. We will focus on the letters 'H', 'I', and 'J' and the numbers 4, 5 and 6 this month. We will continue to work on cutting, gluing, art, patterns and taking turns. We will also be exploring concepts associated with the winter months. Thank you to Kyla (Bridget's mom) for playing the piano for our part in the Holiday Program. It added to the wonderful job the children did that night. We would also like to thank our families for book donations, volunteering and helping us in the growth of their children. Thank you. - Mr. Paul

Ms. Lori and Ms. Tierra's Toddler Class

Welcome back to a season of winter! We hope you enjoyed the holiday program and we trust everyone had a great break with family and friends! Last month the toddlers in our class enjoyed learning all about the holiday traditions of their classmates. We discussed how some families shared traditions that were the same, while others practiced different traditions. This month children will be learning about

polar animals and the cold places they live. The toddlers will learn about how water changes with heat added, then how water freezes into ice when it gets cold and expands. There will be snowball catching and plenty of other fun winter games. In addition, we will also be learning about animals that hibernate.

-Ms. Tierra

Cindy Bo's Younger Toddler Class

Blessings to all for a great new year! I hope that you enjoyed some special time with your families and that your children (and perhaps you too) are eager and ready to return to school. Thank you to those who participated in the Holiday Program. The children did their best at hanging their stars and jingling their bells to their holiday song. Of course, they were as precious as ever in their pajamas and special holiday outfits. Even though rainy days at school can be challenging, with the children learning about winter weather, we will hope and pray for rain. There is great joy in witnessing one of God's awesome wonders and rain provides a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about cause and effect. We were sad to say goodbye to Troy and his family as they went back to their home in Indonesia this month but we are excited that we are able to welcome Michael Dye and his family to our younger toddler class. Welcome!

- Cindy Bo

"Hall of Thanks"

We regularly have people to thank for offering help, support, contributions, donations and gifts to our school. Please take time to look over our new "Hall of Thanks", in the entry way, as we recognize these individuals and families.

This month we would like to especially thank Adeline and others who have faithfully been helping us with our never ending laundry!

Also, thank you to our Children's Center Chronicle Editor, Cindy Bo, who gives of her time and talent each month to make this newsletter.