

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Maddy

- **Summer is here.** "Trips and Travel" will be our theme throughout the summer. The classes will be rotating themes from *Going to the Beach*, *Going to the Zoo*, and *Going Camping*, so bring your hat, sunglasses, sun screen and a comfortable pair a shoes (Keep in mind though, that flip flops can cause children to slip and fall during active play.) In the days and months ahead there is sure to be many opportunities for water play, so please check your child's cubby and make sure an extra change of clothes is available. Chances are, if your child does not have a change of clothing, when needed, you will get a call requesting you bring a new change of clothing for your child at that time.
- This is a busy time for many families and the staff. Please let your child's teacher know if your child will not be coming to school because of vacation or illness. Teachers need to record absences related to illness on their individual classroom illness log. *The staff appreciates your support in helping to keep everyone healthy.* A well balanced diet, plenty of rest and regular hand washing are **KEY** to happy and healthy children, families, and staff.
- A special **"Thank you!"** to the "Room Parents", Greta Robbins, Cynthia Valenzuela, Kyla Huckerby and Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer, for organizing the families, and all the wonderful volunteers who helped to make a wonderful "Staff Appreciation Luncheon". We know that it was quite a task to put something together as creative as it was and all the special attention to detail. The staff and I feel very blessed to have such wonderful families in our program.
- Please turn in your parent surveys by June 15. The surveys provide us information regarding what you, our families, think about our program and how we can improve it. I look forward to reviewing the surveys and sharing the information with you in the July newsletter.
- Summer is a **"Transition Time"** for many children. We will also be welcoming several new families to our program. If you see a new face, take a moment and introduce yourself and welcome them as they join our AGUMCC family.



The staff, children, families and AGUMC board would like to thank **Ms. Anna and Mr. Paul** for the time that have spent with us leading the preschool class this year. We wish them well as they leave our program.

New staff will be hired to start in July for the incoming three year old class in August.

Many Thanks: To Cindy Hahn, (Zoe's Mom) for renewing the window treatments in the Toddler Nap Room. To Adeline Bottorff, for taking our laundry home every week. We GREATLY appreciate your time and talents that you both give to the program.

Dates to remember

- **Friday June 4-** STAFF DEVELOPMENT School closes at 3:30
- **Tuesday, June 15** - PARENT SURVEYS DUE
- **Sunday, June 27** - ICE CREAM SOCIAL Following the 10:30 AGUMC service (11:30)
- **Wednesday, June 30** - SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS ARE DUE

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Church would like to invite the AGUMCC families to attend the 10:30 service on Sunday, June 27 (See attached flyer). The Children's Center will be hosting a delicious **"Ice Cream Social"** immediately following the 10:30 service. Also, we will be honoring Wendell Curry, a founding member of the Children's Center, by announcing the **"Wendell Curry Memorial Scholarship Fund."** The scholarship fund will allow families enrolled in the program, who are in financial need, to apply for a scholarship to reduce their child's tuition once annually. Scholarship applications will be available through the Children's Center office. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the scholarship fund, you may do so in Criswell Hall after each service.

Ms. Nichole's Pre-K Class

Summer is here! With the warm weather here now, we are excited to begin our "Trip to the Beach" theme. We will be learning about ocean life and fun outdoor activities to do at the beach. If you have any items to share that are beach related, please feel free to bring them for the share basket or to add to our classroom environment!

Thank you again to all the families for helping make the graduation and acknowledgement ceremony so special. We will really miss all the children who are moving on to new schools, and having this last celebration, to reflect on our wonderful years together, was amazing. We have so much to look forward to this summer. We will be doing both the "Safety" and the "I Can Problem Solve" programs with the children who will be attending summer school. I look forward to working through these programs with your children as well as sharing additional fun summer activities with them.

-Mrs. Nichole

Ms. Rebecca's Preschool Class

(A note from Ms. Anna)

Mr. Paul and I would like to thank all of the families who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with us, for May conferences, to discuss the growth and joy we have observed this year with our Room 3 kiddos. Last month we discussed Pond Life including sorting into groups such as pond animals vs. plants and things that live in the pond vs. on land by the pond. We classified the differences and similarities between toads and frogs, and reptiles and amphibians. We made edible bird nests, went alphabet fishing, and watched tadpoles go through metamorphosis into frogs right before our very eyes! As you now know, I will not be staying at AGUMCC for the upcoming school year. It has been so remarkable to witness the growth of the children in Room 3, as well as all of the children in the program, over this past year. I am thankful for my time with them. I want to express deep gratitude and thanks to all of the AGUMCC families, staff, and board for their support during this transition in my life. My last day will be June 11. This means that Ms. Rebecca will be teaching in Room 3 this summer to transition the children through my absence and prepare them for Pre-K in the fall. I am confident in Ms. Rebecca and trust that she will make the preschoolers' transition to Pre-K smooth, while providing a creative and fun-filled summer session! In June, we will begin talking about Trips and Travel, as the summer months are popular vacationing times. Please bring in any photos of trips you take over the summer for your child to share and discuss with the class! Ms. Rebecca will be taking the children on an imaginary trip to a tropical island. Also, the children will be participating in the "I Can Problem Solve" and "Safety" programs; which will help the preschoolers develop ideas, critical thinking skills, language about feelings, conflict negotiation skills, problem solving

skills, safety skills and how to ask for help when needed. Thank you for an incredible year! Have a relaxing and fun summer and travel safely wherever you may go.

- Ms. Anna

Ms. Lori and Ms. Tierra's Toddler Class

After investigating the life cycles of many insects in April, the study of the life cycle of a frog in May was a natural progression and helped to transition into the Pond theme. We explored water environments such as ponds, rivers, and lakes and the animals that live in and around them, such as frogs, turtles, lizards, snakes, fish, birds, beavers, and alligators. In June, we will continue this study of animals by going on an imaginary trip to the Zoo. There we will see many different animals from around the world. In addition, we will learn a little about the natural environments of these animals. June is also a time to welcome all our new students, after saying goodbye to those who ended their time in our classroom in May. We will miss all those who will be gone for the summer months and look forward to seeing many of them returning again in the fall. To all those that are joining us now, we extend a great big WELCOME and we hope you enjoy all the fun exploration we have planned for the summer.

-Mrs. Tierra

Cindy Bo's Younger Toddlers

It is so good to be back with the children again! Thank you to Lisa, Rebecca and Maddy for holding down the fort while I was gone. I also appreciated the meals that so many of the families brought by during my time of recovery. What a blessing! It was great to get the okay to come by for visits and to have my parent teacher conferences before my official start back. Seeing the kids and having a chance to visit with my Young Toddler Families, about all that their children have been doing, at school really lifted my spirits. It is amazing to reflect on how much the children in our class have grown and developed over these past nine months! Some have gone from barely speaking a word or two to using complete sentences or from engaging primarily in solitary play to daily interacting with others. It has been a joy to observe. We will join the older toddler group "Going to the Zoo" this month. Once again, we can practice our animal sounds as we talk about, read about and sing about some of the exciting animals commonly seen there. If you have any photos or souvenirs from your own trip to a zoo, please consider sharing them with us. It will be a great start to our summer!

-Cindy Bo

We appreciate you appreciating us!

All of the staff would like to thank the families who helped with the "Staff Appreciation Luncheon", for making us feel special. The creative and personal photo albums let us know that you value our work with your children and recognize us as an important part of your family's lives..

Thank you so much!