

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com June 2011

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 to 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 Greta Robbins, for organizing the families to provide the wonderful food for the "La Fiesta Staff Appreciation Luncheon". The salsa contest was a fun part of the event. There were five different salsas; both green and red salsas, which varied from mild to spicy. Each were delicious and it was hard to choose a favorite. However, congratulations goes to ... Natalie Barker, whose salsa was voted the best. Also, thank you to Greta and Cynthia Valenzuela who helped serve the hungry staff. We loved the lunch bags and appreciated the special notes written in the cards given to each individual staff. The staff and I feel very blessed to have such wonderful families in our program who were willing to give of their time and talent to provide such a fun, enjoyable, and memorable event. Thanks again!

Don't forget to 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.

June is our Community Service Month.

For families who would like to help the AGUMCC staff feed the homeless, we will be needing 14 casseroles by June 30. If you would like to help with this community service project, please sign up at the Sign In/Out Table. If you can pick up everything you need to make the casseroles, here at the church, on any Sunday, from 9:30 - 12:00 noon.

If you have any questions see Maddy.

Children's Center Benefit BBQ, Book Fair, and Drawing RECAP

The BBQ was hard work, yet a success. Thanks to the 60 volunteers that included to AGUMCC staff, families, board members, and First United Methodist church members and especially the Arroyo Grande Valley Kiwanis who helped with this wonderful event. **See the great pictures of the food and fun had by all at www.worshipweekly.com the link is children's center.** We raised almost \$1,500 raised from this event will be used to make needed improvements around the school. The book fair was also enjoyed by many. The book sales earned the school several new books for our school library. The drawing was lots of fun too. We had 23 items, that were donated by local merchants, to help support our event. Congratulations to all those who won the items donated by these generous sponsors. A special thanks to the California Highway Patrol, who offered the "Drive Thru Car Seat Safety Check", which many families took the opportunity to participate in.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday June 4 - **STAFF DEVELOPMENT** School closes at 3:30
- Friday, June 10 - **PRE-K PROMOTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROGRAM** at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary with reception to follow in Criswell Hall
- Tuesday, June 15 - **PARENT SURVEYS DUE**
- Thursday, June 30 - **CASSAROLLES ARE DUE**, to help feed the homeless.
- Thursday, June 30 - **SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS ARE DUE**

Ms. Lisa and Ms. Rebecca'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!

We are looking forward to the graduation and acknowledgement ceremony, coming up on the 10th. We will really miss all the children who are moving on to new schools, and having this celebration, to reflect on our wonderful years together, is an amazing way to end our school year .

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. -Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Prue and Ms. Wasinii's Preschool Class

In May we explored animal life "at the pond" with fun opportunities to continue with math concepts counting, sorting & grouping animals in their habitats. We read fun, as well as some factual books, on the topic, that helped expand vocabulary & develop phonological awareness....there's a lot of frog stories out there!

Children enjoyed singing the "Hippo" song, their contribution to Children's Center Sunday (May 22nd). They loved the chorus! Especially taking on the characteristics of this humongous animal as they sang.

"At the beach" this month we will learn about the salt-water environment and how it is different from the fresh water environment. Your children's discoveries will be supported by a variety of math, language and art activities, as we enjoy what goes on "at the beach".

"Share Time" offers a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their expressive language, so please support them in finding a related "something special" to bring to class for this month's theme. As we move into summer, take time to enjoy an outing to the beach as a family. It is an idyllic play place for everybody!

I have really enjoyed my time with this wonderful group of children and it's hard to believe it's time for me to transition over to the toddler room as Ms. Nichole plans to return from her maternity leave. I will miss being a part of the preschool classroom yet will be able to stay

connected to all of you ,since I'll only be next door in the toddler room with Cindy Bo. - Ms. Prue

Cindy Bo and Ms. Kristel's Toddlers

Kristel and I appreciated having the chance to meet with our toddler families for parent teacher conferences last month. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us so we could have the opportunity to visit with you about all that your children have been doing, at school, reflect on how much they have grown and developed, and share about what they will be working on over the next number of months. It has been a joy to join with you in helping to foster their growth and development and is exciting to think about how much they will continue this process between now and our next conference.

The toddlers really enjoyed exploring and observing the life cycles of the butterfly and the frog, as well as learning about other creatures such as insects, turtles, lizards, snakes, fish, birds and beavers as we spent time "Down at the Pond".

We will now begin our summer theme of "Trips and Travel" by "Going to the Zoo" in June. 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!

June is also a time of transition and change as we move toward the beginning of our "Summer Session" on June 15. Miss Kristel has already transitioned her group of "Transitioning Toddlers " into their new classroom. This group will all be starting, with Miss Kristel, in the Preschool class in the fall. Charlotte will be gone for the summer but back with this group in the fall. Kathryn King and Matteo Regusci will be joining this group this summer. Welcome to the King and Regusci families. We said "goodbye" to Payton and her family, who is now in a school closer to their home in SLO. She is missed . We will also be adding new children to the toddler room as Prue transitions to our room and will become the Primary Caregiver for these incoming toddlers. A great big WELCOME to Prue, our new toddlers, and their families.

-Cindy Bo

Many Thanks: To Cynthia Valenzula, and Natalia Ng for taking our laundry home every week. If you too would be willing to help with the laundry, please see Ms. Maddy.