

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com January 2012

Message from Ms. Maddy

Happy New Year!

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 program and to the staff for their dedication in helping the children prepare for this fun family event. I would also like to thank Jordan Henderson who ran the sound and slide show for the program.

I would like to welcome our new staff member Karen Koeller. She will be working with Ms. Wasinii and with the newly enrolled toddlers. She will be here on Tuesday and Thursday Jan 3, 5, 10, and 12 to meet the new children and their families. She officially starts Monday, January 16. She is a caring and motivated teacher with 30 years experience working with infants/toddlers and preschoolers. She is respected among her previous coworkers for her knowledge and the ability to provide individualized care for each child.

We have two upcoming family fun events planned. Both events will help the staff raise funds needed to attend the "California Association for the Education of Young Children" (CAEYC) conference in Sacramento. The first event is a "Taco Bar Dinner and Regatta Painting Party", on Friday, January 27 at 6:30 PM. This event is to prepare for our "Rain Gutter Regatta Races" in February. The "Taco Bar Dinner" tickets are \$5 a plate and you can purchase your regatta boat, at the dinner, for an additional \$5. The dinner will start at 6:30 and the boat preparation and painting will follow. The evening will end about 7:30ish. Our second event will be the actual "Spaghetti Dinner and Rain Gutter Regatta Races" on Friday, February 24. This evening will also start at 6:30 with dinner and the races beginning around 7:00. These events provide our families another opportunity to have fun, build new friendships, and strengthen the heart of our school community.

Many Thanks

- Thank you to Cherisse Sweeney for organizing the Holiday Book Fair and to all the parents and staff that volunteered to sell books!
- Thank you to Adeline and Cynthia 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 possible.



Theme For The Month:

Discovering Our Winter Wonderland,
Arctic Animals and Weather

Dates To Remember

- Monday, January 16- School is closed for Martin Luther King Day.
- Friday, January 27 - Taco Bar Dinner and Regatta Painting Party Fundraiser at 6:30 PM
- Monday, January 31- Scholastic Book Fair
Orders are due.

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 concept of joy through emotion and friendship.

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

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a fun filled holiday season. The Holiday Program went well and we were so happy to see so many of our Pre-K families there. In December our class had fun learning about a number of different traditions and celebrations. Thanks to all our families who gave to worthy causes this holiday season. Your support helps to make our classroom and our school a great place to be.

Our focus, this month of January, will be our "Winter World". We will be talking about snow, winter animals, and snow related activities. Our letters this month will be 'M', 'N', and 'O'. We will continue our numbers with 13, 14, and 15. Also, this month, we will begin a "Word Wall", since so many of our children are beginning to show an interest in reading.

-Ms. Shirley

Ms. Kristel's Preschool Class

December was an exciting month in our preschool class. We had fun making Christmas projects, decorating our classroom tree, making candy canes with red glitter and playing with dough, using Christmas inspired cookie cutters. The children made Christmas trees, decorated with red glitter. They also decorated a star to go on the top of their trees. Each morning the children enjoyed counting down the days till Christmas and reading books that talked about all the different ways people celebrate the holidays!!!

In January, our theme will be "Winter World". The children and I will learn about "Joy" as it is our "Fruit of the Spirit" for the month, I am sure Tim and Lucy will have lots to say about Joy!! I have posted a "Story Time Sign-up" sheet located by the parent folders. Parents or grandparents can sign up for an available time, listed on the clip board, and can host my Story Time for that day!!!! Story Time is every day at 11:00, please check and see dates that are available. I hope to have some volunteers for the month of January!!!

Welcome 2012. This will be a great year!!! Truly,

-Miss Kristel

Cindy Bo's Young 3s Class

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 a great job jingling their bells and looking adorable in their pajamas and special holiday outfits. We hope you enjoyed the slideshow, capturing the children, as best we could, dressing in costume

and experiencing some of the joy and wonder of the season. Thanks again to Micha, Logan's baby brother, for his role as Baby Jesus. Thanks, also, to all who donated books, through our Scholastic Book Fair and to all who supported us through the sale of See's Candy and Coupon Booklets. We appreciate it!

This is our first month in our new classroom and I anticipate a great year together. I want to welcome Blake Mendenhall, who just joined the Young 3s, and his family to our group. I will be starting up some new traditions for our group of Young 3s. We will soon have "Class Helpers" and "Share Time". I think the children will look forward to participating in both of these. This month we will also explore our winter world and different types of weather. Rain, wind, clouds, and rainbows are a few of God's awesome wonders that we may have a chance to witness together and, as we observe these with the children, we can learn new vocabulary, about cause and effect, individual preferences, and more. Though it's doubtful the children will experience snow here at school, we will, never the less, share about various types of weather conditions, arctic animals and how to keep dry and warm during the winter months.

Blessings to all for a exceptional new year!

- Cindy Bo

Ms. Wasinii and Ms. Karen's Toddlers

December was a very busy month with preparations for our holiday program as well as the anticipation of fun December traditions. We hope you enjoyed the Holiday Program with the children singing Jingle Bells and our special slideshow presentation. A special thank you goes out to Logan's new baby brother, Micha, for playing the part of Baby Jesus wonderfully! I would say a star has been born! Thank you to everyone who participated in the See's Candy sales as well as the Scholastic Book Fair. We look forward to reading all of the new donated books that we have received.

In January, Cindy Bo and her group of young 3's will move into their own classroom. This will allow Ms. Karen and new children to join our class. Lets give a great big welcome to all of them. The new children that will be joining us are: Gwenivere Cooper, Maddox Dechert, Anna Dixon (Daniel's sister), and Kai Doolittle (Malia's brother). Our theme for January is "Winter World" and we will be learning about the animals of the arctic. This theme should go quite well with all the lovely cold weather we have been having! Hope you all had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season.

- Miss Wasinii