

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Ms. Maddy

The Rain Gutter Regatta was a great success. Check out the pictures at www.worshipweekly.com/agumcc.html. Thank you to the staff and parents who volunteered their time to help make the event a success and fun for everyone. The money raised will help the staff attend the 2012 CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in San Diego on March 15 & 16. Mark your calendars for these special dates because school will be closed.

This month's theme is "**How Things Grow and Exploring Farm Life**". Spring is coming and it's time for renewing our gardens. Children will be very involved in this process as they cultivate the ground, bring plants to plant, care for them, and watch them grow. We have two areas in the courtyard that we will be reviving with new flowers. We will also be planting a new crop of vegetables in the backyard garden. The gardens are an important part of our learning experience here at AGUMCC. The children will learn to care for and appreciate the wonders of life and the delicate balance of nature. The garden also provides science at its best with the budding of foliage, the buzzing of insects, and the blossoming of flowers.

Please join us for the "**Work Day**" scheduled for this **Saturday, March 31, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon**. We need help sprucing up the gardens, such as trimming and weeding. Also, we will be repainting some concrete areas in the backyard and the courtyard. There will be a sign up sheet for the "Work Day" located on the Sign In/Out table. If you have any questions, see Maddy.

Theme for The Month: "How Things Grow and Exploring Farm Life"

We invite you to bring a plant to be planted in one of our gardens. Any non-toxic flower or vegetable you would like to bring will be a great addition to our play yards. Please check with your child's teacher to find out their scheduled class planting days.

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for March: **Gentleness**

The children are often reminded of the importance of being gentle with things and each other here at school. We will have a special focus on gentleness as we care for plants and talk about farm animals this month. We are encouraged in the book of Philippians to "Let your gentleness be known to all men" (Phil. 4:5)

Sign up now! "Positive Discipline" is here. This six week course will be held on Tuesday nights March 6 thru April 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. You will learn positive guidance techniques including connection before correction with kindness and firmness. Positive Discipline offers practical ways to change lives by reducing stress while raising responsible, respectful, and resourceful children. **The series will be lead by Certified Positive Discipline Educators, Ms. Maddy and Ms. Kristel.** Registration is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Childcare is available for \$10, per child, per session. Registration includes the Positive Discipline book by Dr. Jane Nelsen and a workbook .

Mark Your Calendar For These Important Up Coming Events

March

- Friday, March 2 - **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY AND SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY.** Wear your school T-shirt to show your school spirit. **School will close at 3:30.**
- Tuesday Nights, March 6—April 10—**POSITIVE DISCIPLINE SERIES** from 6:30 -8:30 in Criswell Hall.
- Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16 - **STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL IS CLOSED** (Staff will be attending the CAEYC Conference in San Diego).
- Saturday, March 31 - "**WORK DAY**". We will be working in the gardens and touching up the painted areas on the concrete in both the backyard and courtyard.

April

* **SUMMER AND FALL ENROLLMENT MONTH!** *

- Wednesday, April 4—**SPRING POT LUCK LUNCH**— This is a minimum day. School is closed at noon.
- Thursday and Friday, April 5&6 - **SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK**
- Thursday, April 12 - **AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 -8:00 PM**

Cindy Bo's Young '3's

April is the time to register your child for the new school year (June 2012-June 2013). Watch for "Registration Information" that will be going out this month. The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll is Tuesday, April 10. Enrollment for families on our "Waiting List" begins on April 16. If there are still openings, "Open Enrollment" begins on May 1.

To those family members who were able to join our Young 3s group for our Friendship Breakfast, we all really enjoyed that time with you! Thanks to all who contributed food and brought items for the "Friendship Bags" and, to Amber Griffin (Macie's mom), for helping out with clean-up. We had an exciting month, with the opportunity to meet several special visitors, who came to share about the part they play in serving our community. The Young 3s are taking great pride in their job responsibilities as assigned "Class Helpers" and are also appreciating the chance to share things, with the group, that they have brought in for the "Share Basket". This month, we will be exploring farm life. We will talk about different farm animals, what they eat and the resources they help provide (milk, eggs, etc) In keeping with the theme, we'll also be planting seeds and tending to our gardens. This means time spent working with dirt and water, two things we know the children enjoy a lot. This will also be a nice transition into our April celebration of Easter and new life. Thanks, so much, for all of your support in helping raise the funds needed for staff to attend the professional conference, coming up soon (March 15&16). We really appreciate you! -Cindy Bo

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

We had a very busy month of February. We really enjoyed our visits from all our community helpers, and had a lot of fun at our friendship celebration too. A special "Thank you" goes out to all of our families who attended and brought items for our celebration, as well as to all of you who attended and volunteered at our Rain Gutter Regatta. March promises to be full of just as much fun and learning. Our letters for the month are 'S', 'T', & 'U' and we will be continuing to learn our numbers 19, 20, and 21. The children have started learning some sight words and are starting to read beginning readers. As we focus on our theme this month, we will be learning about "How Things Grow" and change. We are also beginning to prepare for parent conferences in May. We will begin our assessments this month so we can give you a thorough view of how your child is doing. In addition, we want to remind you that Kindergarten is coming quickly. If you need any information or have any questions about what kind of program would be best for your child, feel free to let us know.

-Ms. Shirley

Miss Kristel's Preschool Class

Thank you to all the Community Helpers who made it possible for the children to learn about how people help in our community! Our Friendship Lunch was a success! It was great having lunch with the children and celebrating friendship! This month we will be exploring farm life, including how things grow on the farm. For Share Time, please encourage your children to bring items that have to do with plants and flowers. Our Fruit of the Spirit is "Gentleness". I know, for sure, Tim and Lucy will have lots to say about gentleness! In addition, I have started a "Kindness Journal" for my class. When I see the children being kind, I write it down and share all the things I wrote down, during our circle time. I encourage you to try this at home. I tell the children "I am going to catch you being kind today"! Children love to be noticed! As a reminder, our school will be closed for staff development on March 15 and 16, for staff development.

- Miss Kristel

Ms. April and Ms. Wasinii's Toddlers

Thank you to everyone who made Community Helpers month and our Friendship Breakfast a huge success! It was great to visit with all the family members who were able to join us and see all the new friendships formed with the newer children in the class. The children enjoyed getting to know all the community helpers that came to visit and all the special items they brought. This month we will be exploring farm life. In addition to learning to identify farm animals, the children will be able to show off the animal sounds many of them are so proud to know already. We'll also be planting seeds and tending to our gardens. If you could please send some seeds or a small plant for us to grow outside in our garden or in the classroom, it would be greatly appreciated. From here, we will transition into our April celebration of New Life. As a reminder, our school will be closed for staff development on March 15 and 16. - Ms. April

TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR

This month, Pastor David and Goodie Bear (with Ms. Shirley) will share about **Gentleness** on Wednesday and Thursday March 28 and 29 in the church narthex, 9:30-10:00am.