

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. Thank you to the parents Peter Quaglino, Eric Jenssen and Ryan Woodward who volunteered their time to help make the event a success and fun for everyone. The money raised will help the staff attend the 2013 CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in San Jose on March 14 & 15. 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, 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 a "**Work Day**" **scheduled for Saturday, March 9 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon**. We need help bringing 3 yards of new sand into the backyard sand box. There will be a sign up sheet for the "Work Day" located on the Sign In/Out table. Treats and childcare will be available. If you have any questions, see Ms. Maddy.

Sign up now! "Positive Discipline" is here. This seven week course will be held on Tuesday nights March 5 thru April 16 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 led by Certified Positive Discipline Educators Ms. Maddy and Ms. Rebecca.** Registration is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Childcare is available for \$10, per child, per session (Advance notification is required). Registration includes the Positive Discipline book by Dr. Jane Nelsen and a workbook.

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)

Mark Your Calendar For These Important Up Coming Events

March

- Friday, March 1 - **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 5—April 16—**POSITIVE DISCIPLINE SERIES** from 6:30 -8:30 in Criswell Hall.
- Saturday, March 9 - "**WORK DAY**". We will be bringing in 3 yards of new sand for the backyard sand box.
- Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15 - **STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL IS CLOSED** (Staff will be attending the CAEYC Conference in San Jose).
- Wednesday, March 27—**HERITAGE POT LUCK LUNCH**— This is a minimum day. School is closed at noon.
- Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29 - **SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY**

April

* **ENROLLMENT TIME** *

- Friday, April 5—**Registration Deadline for Current Families**
- Thursday, April 11 - **AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 -8:00 PM**
- Sunday, April 14— **CHILDREN CENTER SUNDAY**—Art Show with Homemade Treats & Ice Cream Social

April is the time to register your child for the new school year (June 2013-June 2014). Watch for "Registration Information" that will be going out this month. The deadline for our current families to register/re-enroll is Friday, April 5. Enrollment for families on our "Waiting List" begins on April 15. If there are still openings, "Open Enrollment" begins on May 1.

Ms. Kristel and Ms. Rebecca'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, focusing on 21, 22, & 23. We will also be learning about some of the "Master Artist"s, this month. We are calling it "Meet the Masters". We will create art, inspired by famous artists, for open house and the art show in April. Along with all of this, we will be learning about "How Things Grow" and change. Ms. Kristel and I would like to thank all the parents for participating in the different fundraising opportunities. We both look forward to attending the CAEYC Conference this month, and learning new information to better serve your children, and future children. *-Ms. Rebecca*

Ms. Kassie and Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

We had a very busy month in February. We want to give a big "Thank you" to all our families who attended and brought items for our Friendship Party, as well as to all of you who attended our Rain Gutter Regatta. This month we will be exploring farm life, including how things grow on a farm. For our nature collection, please bring in seeds that we can plant and watch grow. Our Fruit of the Spirit for the month is "Gentleness". I know, for sure, Tim and Lucy will have lots to say about gentleness. In addition, we will continue our alphabet with the letters 'S', 'T', 'U' and will be working on counting, through many activities, as well. Our number for the month is 7, and our colors focus will center around green and yellow. We are also preparing for parent conferences in May. We will begin our assessments this month. As a reminder, our school will be closed for staff development on March 14th and 15th for staff to attend the CAEYC Conference. *-Ms. Shirley*

Thank you to the First United Methodist Church Endowment Board for providing new carpet in Toddle Room 2 /Church Nursery.

Ms. April and Ms. Maddy's Toddlers

In February we welcomed two new students into the classroom. We welcomed Jack Baker and Valentina Valero. We have all enjoyed getting to know these two children and their families. Thank you to all of the families who helped with and brought food to the Friendship Day Party! Thank you to all the parents who were able to join the party too! The children all enjoyed sharing their songs and activities. We enjoyed the busy month of February and all of the Community Helpers that came to visit the school! The children all enjoyed being able to interact and learn from people in our community. Thank you to everyone who made learning about the community such a fun and enjoyable experience! Thank you for helping sell tickets and attending the taco night and spaghetti night dinners! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. It was a lot of fun to interact with all the children and families outside of the classroom! Be sure to look at all the photos on the website. The regatta racing event was a huge success, thank you to everyone who participated. Just a reminder, school will be closed for staff development on March 14th and 15th for staff to attend the CAEYC Conference. *-Ms. April*

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

I want to welcome Logan Koonce, who just joined the Young Toddlers last month, and his family to our group. To those family members who were able to join our Young Toddler group and bring food for our Friendship Breakfast, I really appreciated your participation and that time with you! A special "Thanks" to "HoHo" (Lucas' family friend) for his help with set-up and to Amber Wighton (Beau's mom) for sticking around to clean things 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. 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 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 (CAEYC), coming up soon (March 14&15). We really appreciate you! *-Cindy Bo*

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 20 and 21 in the church narthex, 9:30-10:00am.