

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com/agumcc.html MARCH 2014

Message from Ms. Maddy

The Rain Gutter Regatta was a great success. Thank you to Chuck Richards, Kristi Balzer, John Cook, Portia and Tisha Lardizabal, Steven Clark, Bernie and Mary Hawkins, Barbara Reineke, Mary Thronson and Virginia Mothes who help make the event a success and fun for everyone. The money raised will help the staff attend the 2014 CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in Pasadena on April 3 & 4. 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 22 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. We will be replacing the sod in the backyard and sprucing up our gardens. 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.

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 book study will be held on Tuesday nights March 4 thru April 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Together, we will be reading the "Positive Discipline" book, by Dr. Jane Nelsen, that offers guidance techniques of connection before correction with kindness and firmness. Positive Discipline provides 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 and a workbook.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT UP COMING EVENTS

March

- Tuesday Nights, March 4 - April 8 - POSITIVE DISCIPLIN SERIES from 6:30 -8:30PM in Criswell Hall.
- Friday, March 7 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY AND SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY. Wear your school T-shirt to show your school spirit. School will close at 3:30 pm
- Saturday, March 22 -"WORK DAY" We will be replacing the sod in the backyard and working in the gardens, 9-12 pm

April

* ENROLLMENT TIME *

- Thursday and Friday, April 3-4 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOOL IS CLOSED (Staff will be attending the CAEYC Conference in Pasadena).
- Tuesday, April 8 - REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CURRENT FAMILIES
- Thursday, April 10 - PIZZA AND CONCERT WITH IVAN ULZ, famous for the "Fire Truck" song 6:00 -7:00 PM
- Thursday, April 10 - AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 -8:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 16 - HERITAGE POT LUCK LUNCH - This is a minimum day. School is closed at noon.
- Thursday and Friday, April 17 - 18 - SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

April is the time to register your child for the next school year of July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015.

Registration Information" will be going out this month. The deadline for current families to register is Tuesday, April 8. Families on our "Waiting List" may then register, starting Tuesday, April 15 and general enrollment will begin Thursday, May 1.

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

February was busy, busy, busy!! The children really enjoyed all the visits from our community helpers. Our dramatic play was the "health center". The children really enjoyed pretending to be a doctor, nurse, patient and receptionist. Along with the health center, we learned about germs. The children drew pictures of germs and they were so cute. We would like to thank everyone who was able to come to the friendship party. It was a lot of fun spending time with the families, enjoying good food, and talking. For the month of March we will be working on the letters 'V' (Vincent Vampire Bat), 'W' (Willie Weasel) and 'X' (Xavier Fox). We will also be learning about "Master Artists", this month. We are calling it "Meet the Masters". The children will create art, inspired by famous artists, for our open house and art show, in April. Along with all this, we will be learning about "How Things Grow" and change. Ms. Tresha and I would like to thank all the families for participating in the different fundraising opportunities. We both look forward to attending the CAEYC conference and learning new information to better serve your children, and future children.

-Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Kassie and Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

In February we really enjoyed all the visits from the community helpers; it truly was a busy month. A big "Thank you!" to all of our families who attended and brought items for our friendship party, as well as to those who came to our Rain gutter Regatta. This month, we will be exploring the farm life, and learning how things grow on a farm. For our nature collection, please bring in seeds that we can plant and grow. Our "Fruit of the Spirit" focus will be on "Gentleness". I am sure Tim and Lucy will have a lot to say about gentleness. In addition, we will continue our alphabet, learning about the letters, 'V', 'W' and 'X', and will be working on counting. We will also begin our assessments this month, in preparation for parent conferences in May.

-Ms. Shirley

Ms. April and Ms. Jill's Toddlers

We welcomed Ms. Jill into our classroom in the middle of January and Blake and the Lawlor family joined us, in Room 2, as well! Welcome Lowler family! February was an exciting month for Room 2! We had a Friendship day party and want to say "Thank you" to everyone who participated and attended! We also had so many community visitors come to the school! We hope that everyone enjoyed all of the write ups and pictures that followed the visits from our "Friends in our Community"! Room 2 talked about being safe, about being safe with our bodies, visiting the dentist, doctors, calling 911, etc..... Thank you to everyone who attended the Taco Bar and Spaghetti Dinner Nights! March will also be another exciting month, as we begin to follow the theme "Down on the Farm." We will have special farm animals come to the school and visit! We will be learning about different crops that grow on farms and also different animals that live on the farm. If you have any pictures of farm life or farm animals that you would like to share with the class, feel free to bring them in or email them to the classroom email. We would love to see them!

-Ms. April

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

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 "GiGi" (Kane's grandma) for her help with getting things from the kitchen and helping to clean up a few things at the end! 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. 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 (April 3-5). 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 5 and 6, in the church narthex, 9:15—9:30 am.