

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com April 2014

Message from Maddy

Spring is here and it is "The Month of the Young Child". Our school will host our annual "Open House", Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 PM. Also, that night in Criswell Hall, at 6:00, we will have a pizza dinner and, in the sanctuary at 6:30, a concert with Ivan Ulz. "He is the writer and singer of the beloved children's song, "Fire Truck". Presold tickets for both the pizza dinner and the concert are \$8 a person. If you only want to attend the concert, tickets are \$5. Following the concert, there will be a "Welcome", to kick off our "Open House". Families, friends, and the community are invited to attend this event. This is a time for the staff to share the importance of the play, exploration, and learning, that occurs, each day, at our center. In addition, you will have an opportunity to see the many learning activities and areas of interest both in and outside the classroom.

Our "Year Round" registration takes place in April. The Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center opened it's doors in September 2005, with 3 children. We currently have 48 children enrolled. **The deadline for our current families to re-enroll, for the next session, is Tuesday, April 2.** Families on our "Waiting List" can enroll starting April 15. "Open Registration", will start on May 1. Toddlers account for most of our new enrollment, as our current toddlers transition into the preschool room. There are several spaces left, to enroll new families in our preschool, as well. After the preschool children transition into the Pre-K class, there may only be one or two openings for new Pre-K families. Our Pre-K program follows the Pre-K Guidelines, set by the Department of Education, which is designed to help children successfully enter Kindergarten. **It is always good to plan ahead when looking for a quality program.** We pride ourselves on having an educated staff that have a love for and commitment to young children. Also, we work hard on creating an environment that stands for quality, by following the standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. *Thank you to the staff, the families, the church and the board members, for all their time and dedication in making this a great program.*

April 27 is AGUMCC Annual Children's Center Sunday Celebration. Families are invited to come and hear the children sing, at the 10:30AM church service. Following the service, AGUMCC will be hosting an Art Show and a Tri Tip BBQ lunch. This event will be fun for the whole family. We are looking for volunteers to help with serving lunch and bringing homemade treats to share at this event. The sign up sheet will be on the Sign In/Out table.

Do you own a computer? Please bring your empty ink cartridges in for the staff to recycle, for cash, at Office Max and Staples. The collection container, for the ink cartridges, is located next to the Sign In/Out table.

Theme for The Month:

New Life &

Springtime Discovery

Things that slither, fly, crawl,
and hop, oh my!



Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the
Month: **Goodness**

"If you are wise and understand God's ways,
live a life of steady **goodness** so that only good
deeds will pour forth "

James 3:3

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

- MONTH OF APRIL- ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION FOR AGUMCC'S 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR.
- Thursday, April 10 - PIZZA AND CONCERT WITH IVAN ULZ (famous for the "Fire Truck" song) 6:00 -7:00 PM
- Thursday, April 10 - OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 -8:00 PM
- Sunday, April 27 - CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY. Children sing at the 10:30 Service, followed by an Art Show and BBQ Tri Tip Lunch 11:30 -12:30.

MAY

- Friday, May 10 - STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON, 1:00 PM, in the McMillen room.

TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR

This month, Pastor David and Goodie Bear (with Ms. Shirley) will share about Goodness. This special time will be on Wednesday April 2, in the church narthex, at 9:15

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

March was an exciting month for the pre-k class, with many different visits from people like the police officer, and animals like a piglet, horse and chickens. We had a great time learning about farm animals, because they actually came to visit our school! During the month of March, we talked about various artists such as Monet and Van Gough. We learned that each artist is different in style and in the way they use color. Because it has been so enjoyed by the children and families, we will continue to learn about a few more artists in the month of April. The art created by the children will be displayed in our annual Art Show, hosted by the United Methodist Church, on April 27. For the month of April, we will also learn about life cycles and insects. The pre-k students will focus on the letters 'X', 'Y', and 'Z'. Open House will be on Thursday, April 10. Ivan Ulz will be here the same night and we will have a pizza dinner. Conferences are coming, so the month of April will also include assessments of the children, in preparation for May. School will be closed April 3- 4, for staff development. We will also have our Heritage Celebration Pot Luck Lunch on April 16, and that will be half day. School will be closed April 17-18 for staff development and in observation of Good Friday. Lastly, it's time to start thinking about kindergarten. The public elementary schools and private schools are or will be holding their kindergarten round ups soon. Happy Spring!

~Ms. Tresha

Ms. Kassie and Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

Hello from the Preschool Class. Last month we planted seeds and plants. Thank you to all who contributed to our classroom growing projects. We have enjoyed learning about what plants need to grow. We talked about how there are many different types of farms and how some farms have plants and animals while others just have one or the other. The manager from POVE (Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange) came to our school last month to tell us about the many plants they grow in our area and sell to other communities all over the world. He also brought plants for the children to plant and take home. It was a wonderful experience. The children also enjoyed all the different animals that came to visit: Pig, Horse, Chickens, and a Puppy. This month is going to be the busiest month out of the year for our school. If you read Ms. Maddy's Message you can see that there are many fun events that are taking place: A pizza party, a concert with Ivan Ulz, Open House, and Children's Center Sunday Art Show and Tri Tip lunch. In our classroom, we will be predicting, charting, and observing the growth of the plants that we planted last month. Our theme this month is CREEPY, CRAWLY BUGS. Your child can bring a bug, in a sealed container, for a day, to add to our "Nature Collection". Our letters this month are 'Yy' and 'Zz', I can not wait to see what share items the children will bring this month that starts with Y and Z.

~Ms. Kassie

Ms. April and Ms. Jill's Toddlers

During the month of March, the children learned about what types of plants and animals are found on the farm. We learned about the science of how plants grow, by planting and watering seeds. We will continue to take care of them as they grow into plants. We even got a visit from "Rosy", the piglet, "Audrey", the horse, and from Ms Maddy's chickens! The month of April is going to be a busy one, as the children learn about insects and new life. We'll be using books, songs, art, and music to learn about different kinds of insects, as well as their varying lifecycles. Open House is on Thursday, April 10, so families can come check out what we've been learning and working hard on, in the classroom. There will also be a pizza dinner and concert, by Ivan Ulz, that same evening. The children will also be learning about fine art and our class has chosen to focus on Vincent Van Gogh. We'll be learning about his life and art, and we will be creating a collaborative piece of art, inspired by him. Families can bid on this piece, during the Children's Center Sunday Art Show and BBQ, on April 27. Our class has been doing a great job, practicing being responsible, by cleaning up spaces used, when done. Families can continue to encourage this, at home, as well! Just as a reminder, school will be closed for staff development, April 3-4, for staff to attend the CAEYC conference in Pasadena. We will also have our Heritage Celebration Pot Luck Lunch (sign ups will be on the parent board in the classroom) on April 16 and that will be a half day. School will be closed April 17-18 for staff development and in observation of Good Friday. We appreciate all you do! Have a great month!

~Ms Jill

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

The Young Toddlers enjoyed our time exploring farm animals, how plants grow and a variety of vegetables and fruits. We looked, touched and tasted vegetables and fruits in different forms: raw, cooked, squeezed etc. We also read stories about and did our best at gardening, planting plants and our wheat berries. They worked on their fine motor skills and eye hand coordination, as they watered the plants and wheat grass, with spray bottles and sprinkler cans. We look forward to watching them grow as we continue to care for them. Now we move into our celebration of new life, as flowers bloom and fruits emerge, tomatoes from our tomato plants, hopefully!. This is also an enjoyable time to explore the smallest of God's creatures : bugs and insects. We will learn about a variety of critters. We will also explore the process of metamorphosis: caterpillar to a butterfly. The children have been thrilled to discover many of these bugs and insects in our yards already. They get so excited and can learn so much from their discoveries. Make sure to note the various dates school will be closed and special events that will be taking place this month. There are many. Happy Spring!

~Cindy Bo

**Thank you to the First United Methodist Church
Endowment Board for helping us resurface our
soft space in the courtyard!**