

Children's Center Chronicle

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

Message from Ms. Maddy

The Rain Gutter Regatta was a great success. Thank you to the families and staff who helped make the event a success and fun for everyone. The money raised is helping the staff attend the 2015 CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in Sacramento this month. Please note that **school will be closed**, March 5 and 6, so staff are able to participate in this wonderful professional growth opportunity.

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. Also, in the backyard raised garden bed, we will be harvesting potatoes that were planted in December and planting carrots and tomatoes. The gardens are an important part of our learning experience, here at AGUMCC. The children 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 blooming of flowers, and the harvesting of fruits and vegetables.

Please join us for a "**Work Day**" **scheduled for Saturday, March 21 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon.** We will be working in the gardens and doing some painting. 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 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 3 thru April 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Together, we will be reading the "Positive Discipline" book, by Dr. Jane Nelsen. It 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 3 - April 7 - POSITIVE DISCIPLINE SERIES from 6:30 -8:30PM in Criswell Hall.
- Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS. **School will be Closed.** Staff will be attending the CAEYC Conference in Sacramento.
- Saturday, March 21 - "**WORK DAY**" We will be working in the gardens and painting. 9-12 pm

April

* ENROLLMENT TIME *

- Wednesday, April 1 - HERITAGE POT LUCK LUNCH - This is a minimum day. **School is closed at noon.**
- Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3 - HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY. **School will be Closed.**
- Tuesday, April 7 - REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CURRENT FAMILIES
- Thursday, April 9 - AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE, 7:00 -8:00 PM
- Sunday, April 26 - CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY - Art Show and Ice Cream Social

April is the time to register your child for the next school year,

July 6, 2015-June 24, 2016.

Registration Information will be going out this month. The deadline for current families to register is Tuesday, April 7. Families on our "Waiting List" may then register, starting Wed., April 15 and general enrollment will begin Fri., 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. Along with community helpers, we learned about germs and how to keep ourselves healthy. The children drew pictures of germs and they were so cute!!! We would like to thank everyone who were able to come to the Friendship Party and those who contributed. 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 'U', 'V' and 'W'. 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. Finally 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, as well as other children, in the future. ~Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Kassie and Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

In February, we really enjoyed all the visits from our 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 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 'U', 'V', and 'W', as well as working on counting. We will also begin our assessments this month, in preparation for parent conferences in May. ~Ms. Shirley

Ms. Claudia and Ms. Maddy's Toddlers

February was a very busy month. The children really enjoyed the Fire Truck, Ambulance, Vision Screening and Dentist visits. Our Friendship Day Party was a great success! Thank you to all the families that helped set up, clean up and who brought yummy treats to eat. The children really enjoy it when mom, dad, and other family members come to visit us, at school. I would also like to thank all the families that came to Taco Bar Dinner and Regatta Race; it was great watching everyone race their boats. March 5-8, the staff will be traveling to Sacramento, to the CAEYC Conference, as part of our continuing staff development. School will be closed March 5-6 and will resume March 9. We also have a Work Day, March 21, to help prepare for Open House. This Month we will be focusing on "Gentleness" and how things grow on a farm. We will also have lots of special visitors; we hope to be visited by chickens, horses and pigs and hope that you can all come join us and be part of the experience. Lastly, I would like to give a big thanks to our Community Helpers; SLO Ambulance, Five Cities Fire Department, Dr. Hile and Dr. Hayes. ~Ms. Claudia

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 am really thankful for your participation and that time with you! A special "Thanks" to Jamie (Austin's mom) and Kirsten (Brendan's mom) for their help with set up and to Kate (Sophia's mom) and Monica (Colbie's mom) for helping to clean up 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. 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 fundraising support, helping our staff to attend the professional conference (CAEYC), coming up, March 5-7. We really appreciate you!

~Cindy Bo

TIME WITH PASTOR DAVID & GOODIE BEAR

Pastor David will read "The Good Samaritan", from Luke 10: 30-35. in the Beginning Bible. "Goodie Bear" will share a "Fruit of the Spirit" teaching on "Gentleness". Ask your child about this wonderful time, we will be sharing together, on **Wednesday March 4 at 9:15 AM, in the Church Narthex.**