

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 an evening of good family fun. Thank you to the families and staff who helped make the event a success. Many hands make light work. The money raised from this event helps the staff attend the 2016 CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference in Pasadena this month. Please note that **school will be closed, Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1**, so staff can 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. 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, the blooming of flowers, and the harvesting of fruits and vegetables.

Please join us for a "**Work Day**" on **Saturday, March 12, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon**. We will be renovating the gardens, in the courtyard, by putting in redwood planter beds. We will also be doing some additional gardening and painting. There will be a sign up sheet, for the "Work Day", located on the Sign In/Out Table. Treats and childcare will be FREE and 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 plant 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 1 thru April 5 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 materials.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT UP COMING EVENTS

March

- Tuesday Nights, March 1- April 5 - POSITIVE DISCIPLINE SERIES from 6:00 -8:00PM, in Criswell Hall.
- Friday, March 4 - Staff Development and Spirit Day. There is no "Extended Care" on this Day.
- Saturday, March 12 - "WORK DAY" We will be working in the gardens, 9:00 - 12:00 noon.
- Wednesday, March 23 - HERITAGE POT LUCK LUNCH - This is a minimum day. **School is closed at noon.**
- Thursday March 24 and Friday, March 25 - HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY. **School will be Closed.**
- Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS. **School will be Closed.** Staff will be attending the CAEYC Conference in Pasadena.

April

* ENROLLMENT TIME *

- Tuesday, April 5 - REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CURRENT FAMILIES.
- Thursday, April 14 - AGUMCC OPEN HOUSE, 6:30 -7:30 PM.
- Sunday, April 24 - CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY - Art Show and Ice Cream Social 10:30 am -12 noon.

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

July 5, 2016-June 23, 2017.

Registration Information will be going out this month. The deadline for current families to register is Tuesday, April 5. Families on our "Waiting List" may register, starting Friday, April 15 and general enrollment will begin Monday, May 2.

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

February was busy, busy, busy! The children really enjoyed all the visits from our Community Helpers. Along with community helpers, the children expressed a desire to learn more about space. They had a lot of fun learning about the planets, the solar system, astronauts and what it is like to be in space. We would like to thank everyone who was able to come to the Friendship Party and a special thanks to 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 learning about "Master Artist". We are calling it "Meet the Masters". The children will create art work inspired by famous artists, for our Open House and Art show in April. Finally Ms. Kassie 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. Shirley and Ms. Tresha'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 learning about the alphabet, focusing on the letters 'Q', 'R' and 'S', 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 Mrs. Swati's Toddlers

With the arrival of spring, this month, I'm sure we are all hoping for some mild weather. During the month of February we had a lot of fun learning about problem solving, letters and the moon. We also spent time talking about all the special people we love, both family members and friends. We talked about different people who work in the commu-

nity and we had lots of visitors: firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and an ophthalmologist. Thanks, also, to the families who shared their profession with our class. Our Friendship Party was a great success. The children really enjoyed having their families at school. It was fun to see all the families at the Regatta Race and Pizza Night, too. Children enjoyed racing their boats. March will include some wonderful projects and changing weather: clouds, wind and rain. This all ties right in with the coming of "Spring" and our continued celebration of growing, gardening, sprouting seeds, and eating healthy. This month we will be learning about how things grow on a farm as well as about different farm animals. We will have special visitors including chickens, horses and a baby pig. Let us know if you would like to take part in these experiences. Our "Fruit of the Spirit" this month is "Gentleness". The children will continue to practice using gentle touches with each other as well as with the visiting animals. As a member of the AGUMCC staff, I am looking forward to attending the CAYEC professional development training and utilizing some of the strategies learned, in our classroom, for the success of the children. Ms. Claudia and I still need families who can volunteer their help to make playdough and do our class laundry once a month. The Classroom Volunteer Sign Up Sheet is by the Family Folders. ~Ms. Swati

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

Let me start by welcoming Leia Chang, who is starting in our group this month, and her family Jason (Dad), Krista (Mom) and brothers Jackson and Alexander, to our Young Toddler group. Welcome! To those of you who were able to join our group and bring food for our Friendship Breakfast, thank you for participating and creating a special experience for your children! A special "Thanks" to Adur (Kristjan's mom) for her help with set up and to Kelli (Kenley's mom) and Jessica (Anastasia'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. 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 31 - April 2. We really appreciate it!

~Cindy Bo

TIME WITH PASTOR MARY & GOODIE BEAR

Pastor Mary 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 **Wed., March 2 and Thurs., March 3 at 9:10 AM, in the Church Narthex.**