

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com September 2016

Message from Ms. Maddy

It's Autumn and time to get back into a routine, after a fun filled summer. We are looking forward to a great new school year. This year we have 50 children enrolled. Thank you to our many school families who have shared with others, how happy they are with the quality of care and the low child to teacher ratio we offer. A satisfied family is our best advertisement. If you know of someone in need of quality childcare, please have them make an appointment for a tour. After they have received a tour then, they can be added to our Waiting List for enrollment in our program, July 2017-June 2018 session.

The Harvest Parade is coming. If you and your child would like to join us in the parade, on Saturday, Sept. 24, there will be a sign-up sheet out next week. This is a fun activity that provides community awareness of our program. Family members/friends can walk alongside as their child/children, ride a trike, scoot along on a scooter, are pushed in a stroller or pulled in a wagon. To show our school spirit, **please remember to wear your AGUMCC T-shirt in the parade.**



"Family Fun Day" will be on **Saturday, Oct. 8, from 11:00 am-1:30 pm**, this year. You and your family will not want to miss out on this fun filled event. There will be a Trike-A-Thon, BBQ lunch, games, face painting, bounce houses, and a pumpkin patch. There are many ways you and your child can take part in this **BIG EVENT**. **Please come to the planning meetings on Thursdays, Sept. 8 and 29, from 6:30-7:30 PM.** Also, talk with your child's teacher, to find out what activity your child's class has planned for the carnival and how you can help. There are many ways to help; sell BBQ tickets, get pledges for the Trike-A-Thon. If your child collects \$25 in pledges, you receive 20 free carnival game tickets and, if you collect \$100 in pledges, your child will receive a **CARNIVAL WRISTBAND**, to play at the carnival games and Bounce House for **FREE**. The money raised from this event will help us purchase needed supplies and materials for the classrooms. Invite the community by sharing the Family Fun Day flyer at your work or at a business in our area. **Family participation is key to our school's success!! Remember, we are a non-profit and monetary contributions are tax deductible.**

September is Parent/Teacher Conference time. Conferences provide a great opportunity for teachers and families to get to know each other better. They also provide an opportunity for you and your child's teacher to share information about your child and set goals to work towards in the months ahead. Please check with your child's teacher to schedule your individual conference. Conferences are scheduled for about 30 minutes. If you need to participate in "Early Bird" or "Extended Care", during conference time, there is **no charge**. However, please fill out an Extra Care Form, so we can make sure we have additional staff to cover if needed.

Announcements

- **30 Day Notice Policy.** If you need to change your "Child Care Agreement", it is required to give a 30 day written notice.
- **Only Adults May Open the Gate.** This is for the safety of all children.
- **Parking Lot Speed Limit is 5 MPH.** This, again, is for everyone's safety.

★ **Friday, Sept. 2 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY AND SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY.** Wear your school T-shirt, to show your school spirit. **SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 3:30 PM.**

★ **Monday, Sept. 5 - SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY**

★ **Thursdays, Sept. 8 & 29 - FAMILY FUN DAY PLANNING MEETING @ 6:30 pm**

★ **Wednesday, Sept. 30 - SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS DUE!**

TIME WITH PASTOR MARY & GOODIE BEAR

Pastor Mary will read **Exodus 20**, from the *Beginning Bible*. The story is about God's Laws. Goodie Bear and Ms. Shirley will share our moral teaching: **RESPECTFUL**

This special time will be Wed. & Thurs. Sept. 7 & 8, in the church narthex, at 9:05 am.

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

August was full of transitions! We said goodbye to the last of our Kindergarten friends. Many of our pre-K students will miss them very much. We also welcomed our new teacher, Julie Mooney. She is very excited to get to know the children and families. We have also focused on getting to know each and every child in a more individualized way and welcomed new students who have started. Thank you to every one who was able to attend "Back to School Night"! It was fun to talk with you and get to know our Pre-K families better. In September, our curriculum focus will be on "Autumn" and "Different Types of Doctors". Our three letters for this month will be "D", Dee Dee deer, "E", Ellie elephant, and "F", Francie Fish. You will find a list of the hand motions in your Pre-K information packet. If you have not received an information packet, please let us know and we will get you one.



~ Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Kassie and Ms. Maddy's Preschool Class

Our School year is off to a wonderful start. During the month of August, we had a great time getting to know each other, learning about our families and how we are similar yet different. The Family Boards have been a wonderful addition to our classroom. The children spent time, daily, looking at, sharing and learning about each other's families, through this home to school activity. For the month of September, we will start exploring the alphabet, with a focus on the letters 'A', 'B', and 'C'. We will also be discussing the changes that occur in the environment during this season of "Fall". We will send home a little "Apple Bag", for your child to bring an apple back to school to help with the many activities that we have planned such as measuring, sorting, counting, and of course, cooking. Its **Parent/Teacher Conferences** this month, please look for the **Sign Up sheet**, by our classroom Family Folders.



~ Ms. Maddy

Ms. Shirley and Ms. Swati's Toddlers

In August we learned about ourselves. The children looked at the differences and similarities in hair, eye, and skin color. They really enjoyed looking in the mirror and talking about themselves. The children had fun making their self-portrait, with Ms. Shirley, as well. It was fun for them to

do hand and foot stamping, too. We also learned more about our different families. We have been talking about some of the things that we do with our families. Children are enjoying packing pretend lunches and having picnics in our dramatic area. They are also enjoying learning about shapes and colors. Children are still getting used to our class routines and their new environment. It is a big step for some of them and it can take time to adjust. Our back to school night was a great success. Thanks to all the families who were able to come. In September, we will be learning about different kinds of apples. We will be counting, sorting and tasting them. Shirley and I are getting ready for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Look out for the sign-in sheet, to schedule a time to meet with us. Please feel free to talk to us, if you have any questions about these conferences. Lastly, we would highly appreciate your support in making playdough and being a laundry helper for our class.

~ Ms. Swati

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

Thank you to all my Young Toddler Families, who were able to attend our "Back To School Night". I really enjoyed that time with you! I want to support you in whatever way I can. I would love to share a couple resources, that may be helpful to you parents and family members of young toddlers. "1,2,3, The Toddler Years" by Irene Van der Zande and "No Bad Kids" by Janet Lansbury, are both great books, that I would be happy to loan out. Also, I would be willing to set up a monthly meeting, to present and discuss practical application of some basic RIE principles, in caring for Toddlers. I will send home a survey on whether this would be of interest to anyone and, if so, what day and time might work best for you. In September, we will continue to focus on getting to know each other better, helping each child develop their sense of belonging and significance as part of our group. I will continue to focus on providing predictability in your child's day and helping them to develop a sense of security, by establishing consistent and familiar routines and boundaries. Many of the children are already feeling safe and secure enough to test those boundaries. If you notice this at home too, know that this is a good and healthy thing. Just remember that consistency and follow-through are very important! This month, I will provide opportunities for the children to explore their similarities and differences, as they are showing more and more interest in each other. I will also introduce concepts associated with the exploration of apples. I will soon be sending home a little white "Apple Bag" for your child to bring an apple back to school in, for us to explore. We will explore their similarities and differences, discover the star in the middle, enjoy tasting them and make applesauce together. If you, or an adult family member, are able to help out in the classroom with this morning cooking project, please let me know. Also, if you are available to volunteer to help out in other ways, please add your name to the "Calling All Young Toddler Families" volunteer list, located on the clip board in the front of the Family Folders file box. Thanks! It will be a fun month for us all. Blessings always!



~ Cindy