

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

www.agumcc.org

April 2017

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 20 at 6:30 PM. This is a community event, invite your families and friends. 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.

Sunday, April 30th, we have our annual AGUMCC Children's Center Sunday Celebration. Families are invited to come and hear the children sing, at the 10:30AM church service and attend our fabulous **Art Show and Ice Cream Social**. The Art Show will include wonderful group art projects, one made by each classroom, that will be auctioned off, through "Silent Bidding". Check out your child's classroom project, that will be displayed, starting April 20. To get a bidding number, so you can bid on your child's art piece, please see me, Maddy. We also need volunteers to help make home-made treats to share at this event. The sign up sheet will be on the Sign In/Out table

Now that current families have registered for our next session, starting July 5, I will be contacting families on our "Waiting List" to start enrolling April 1. Families not on our "waiting list" can enroll starting May 1. We look forward to welcoming new families to our program. Most of our new families start with us in the toddler group. However, some families join us in either the preschool or Pre-K group.

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 interactive environments, both in the classroom and outside, that stand for quality, by following the standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our Pre-K program follows the Pre-K Guidelines, set by the Department of Education, which is designed to help children successfully enter Kindergarten. **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.**

Staff Appreciation Luncheon is Thursday, May 4, at 1:00 PM, in the McMillen Room. If you can help with this special time, for our staff, please let me know.

Theme for The Month:

**New Life &
Springtime Discovery**
*Things that slither, fly,
crawl, and hop. Oh my!*



DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

- **Friday, April 7** - School Spirit Day and Staff Development. There is no Extended Care on this day.
- **Saturday, April 8** - Work Day, 9 -12 noon. Snacks and childcare available. Please sign up to help.
- **Wednesday, April 12** - Minimum Day School is Closed at 12:00 Noon.
- **Thursday & Friday, April 13 & 14** - Holy Thursday and Good Friday. School is Closed.
- **Thursday, April 20** - OPEN HOUSE, 6:30 -7:30 PM
- **Sunday, April 30** - CHILDREN'S CENTER SUNDAY. Children sing at the 10:30 Service, followed by an Art Show and Ice Cream Social 11:30 -12:00.

MAY *PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE MONTH*

- **Thursday, May 4** - Staff Appreciation Luncheon, 1:00 PM, in the McMillen room.
- **Friday, May 5** - School Spirit Day and Staff Development. There is no Extended Care on this day.

BIBLE STORY & GOODIE BEAR TIME

Our story, from the Beginning Bible, this month is "Jesus is Risen", from Matthew 28:5-10. "Goodie Bear" will share a "Fruit of the Spirit" teaching on "Goodness". Ask your child about this wonderful time we will be sharing together, on **Wednesday & Thursday April 5 & 6, at 9:05 AM, in the Church Narthex.**

Please help reduce our Lost and Found while supporting our Staff Education Fund. You can do this by ordering labels with your child's name at www.stuckonyou.biz Enter the fundraising code AGUMCC.

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

Pre-K had an amazing month studying "The Masters" of Art. The children enjoyed learning about the artist's individual styles, and were inspired to recreate art pieces, with their own individual flair. In our block area, spectacular and expansive farms were designed and we couldn't have been more thrilled to have our farm animal visits! Baby farm animals were a perfect transition to our April focus on "New Life". We will be reading about, and discussing, the fascinating process of new life and growth. Plants, flowers and bugs will be a focus. The class is moving along very well with their letter skills. We are now working on our final letter packet, U-Z. The class is also moving along very well with their number skills. Addition will be the area we will practice this month. The shapes we will introduce this month are the cube and the sphere. We are also preparing for Open House and Children's Art Show. We look forward to seeing you there! Happy Spring!!
~Ms. Julie

Ms. Jayna and Ms. Tresha's Preschool Class

Hello and happy April everyone. I am excited to bring you all the latest news from room 3. March was a busy month for our class. Exploring our farm and garden theme created fun projects, and endless conversations and play. Ms. Tresha and I attended the CAEYC Conference in Ontario, CA on March 23-25. It was incredibly informative. We are both very grateful to the AGUMCC families for supporting the fundraising efforts that allowed us to attend. April is going to be an exciting month. We will be exploring the world of bugs, including a first hand look at the lifecycle of the butterfly. We are going to be having caterpillars in our room that will turn into chrysalis and emerge as Painted Lady Butterflies. We work hard at helping the children recognize the value insects have in this world and that they, too, were created by God, for a purpose. We will also be learning about pastel colors, the shape of the hexagon and reviewing numbers and letters. On Thursday April 20, 6:30 - 7:30, we are looking forward to our annual Open House. It will be a fun-filled evening, celebrating the work and progress each child has made throughout the year. Blessings,
~Ms. Jayna

Ms. Shirley and Mrs. Swati's Toddler

We seem to finally be enjoying some warmer weather. "April Showers bring May Flowers!" We have spent so much time indoors and will be excited to spend time outside. Our children strengthen growing muscles when they are climbing, running, playing ball and jumping. This month we will be taking time to discuss all the changes around us. The children will

be learning about flowers growing, babies, animals and the colors around us. Spring is officially here!! In March, we talked about taking care of the animals, by pretending to be veterinarians. Children had lots of fun dressing up as doctors. We also talked about animals that live on farms. We learned about the life-cycle of chicken/birds and plants. The children really enjoyed the process of making scrambled eggs and hash browns, too, and were very excited about our visitors; the horse, piglet, chicken and tractor. Our CAYEC training was great. We enjoyed learning about various approaches to fostering children's growth and development that we can implement, with our little ones, for their future success. In April, we will be learning about different kinds of bugs and new life. We will be using books, songs and outdoor experiences to learn about different insects and their life cycles. We will also be learning about fine art. Our class is doing a collaborative piece of art, inspired by Andy Warhol, which will be displayed at the Children Center Sunday Art Show. We will be preparing for our Open House and working towards family conferences. Thank you to all our families continued support of making playdough, doing class laundry and taking time to share your profession. Please be on lookout for conference sign-ups in May. Last but not least, congratulations and blessings to the Butler (Bodie) and Fujino (Lucas) families, on the birth of their new baby girls!
~Ms. Swati

Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

In March, the Young Toddlers enjoyed their time helping to transplant flowers and tomato plants. They especially had fun working on their fine motor skills and eye hand coordination, as they watered our plants with spray bottles and sprinkler cans. We look forward to watching them grow, as we continue to care for them. We also planted wheat berries, so the children should have wheatgrass baskets to take home with them on spring break. Now we move into our celebration of new life, as flowers bloom and fruits emerge. Hopefully we will see and be able to taste tomatoes, from our tomato plants, in the months ahead. This is also an enjoyable time to explore the smallest of God's creatures: lizards, bugs and insects. We will learn about a variety of critters. The children have been thrilled to discover many of these in our yards already. They get so excited and can learn so much from their discoveries. We will also explore the process of metamorphosis: caterpillar to a butterfly. Make sure to note the various dates of special events that will be taking place this month. There are many. Happy Spring!
~Cindy Bo

Thank you to our Laundry Helpers:

- **The Bates Family**
- **Mary Thronson**
- **Virginia Mothes**

The staff greatly appreciate your help!