

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com September 2017

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 45 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 join our Waiting List for our next enrollment opportunity.

The Harvest Parade is coming. If you and your child would like to join us in the parade, on **Saturday, Sept. 23**, 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 their child as he/she rides a trike, scoots along on a scooter, or is being 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. 14, from 11:00 am-1:30 pm.** 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, a pumpkin patch, and much more. There are many ways you and your child can take part in this **BIG EVENT.** **Please come to the planning meetings on Thursdays, Sept. 7 and 28, 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 others 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 nonprofit 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

- Looking for a parent to help with Scholastic Book Club. See Ms. Maddy
- 30 Day Notice Policy. If you need to change your "Child Care Agreement", it is required to give a 30 day written notice.
- At school, only adults are to open gates and doors. This is for the safety of all children.
- Parking Lot Speed Limit is 5 MPH.

Friday, Sept. 1 - 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. 4 - SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Thursdays, Sept. 7 & 28 - FAMILY FUN DAY PLANNING MEETING @ 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 30 - SCHOLASTIC BOOK

BIBLE STORY & GOODIE BEAR TIME

We will read about when Moses gets God's Laws, from the *Beginning Bible*, in **Exodus 20**. Goodie Bear and Ms. Shirley will share about our moral teaching on being "**Respectful**"

This special time will be shared together on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 6 and 7, in the church narthex, at 9:05 am.

Ms. Rebecca's Pre-K Class

August went by with a wink of an eye!!! It has been great getting to know the children and all of you. I look forward to getting to know you all better. We continued to talk about our families, through the month of August, and discussing how many people are in our individual families. I appreciated getting more of the "MY FAMILY IS SPECIAL" forms returned, so the children were able to share them with their classmates and I could display them in the classroom. For those who attended back to school night, I hope you received helpful information and were able to get answers to any questions you may have had about our classroom and routines. In August I presented information about volcanos since the children had been actively playing "hot lava", in the sand box, and having lots of discussions about volcanos. Finally we were saddened to say goodbye to Ms. Julie, last month, but wish her well in her next endeavor.



~ Ms. Rebecca

Ms. Jayna and Ms. Tresha's Preschool Class

Our school year is off to a great 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. We focused on getting to know each child and the uniqueness they bring to our classroom. We also started exploring the alphabet, with a focus on 'A', 'B', and 'C'. For the month of September we will focus on the letters 'D', 'E', and 'F'. We will also follow the children's interest and learn more about in dinosaurs.



In addition to that, we will be discussing the changes that occur, in the environment, during this season. We will be discovering more about apples, as we spend time measuring, sorting, and counting, them. Please feel free to bring in an apple, to share with the class. A friendly reminder, if your child is not an Early Bird, to arrive, with your child, between 8:30-9:00A.M. If you are running late for the day, please call our number at 481-2223 ext. 22. This helps out with snack count and preparing for our group time experience. We are looking forward to another great month.

~Ms. Tresha

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-portraits as well. We also learned more about our different families. We have been talking about some of the things that we do with our families. The 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. Ms. Swati 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/or being a laundry helper for our class.



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 like to set up a monthly meeting, to present and discuss practical application of some basic RIE principles, in caring for Toddlers. If you did not receive the survey on whether this would be of interest to you and, if so, what day and time might work best for you, please check your Family Folder for a copy and return it to me as soon as possible. Thanks! 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!



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~ Cindy Bo