

# Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center [www.worshipweekly.com](http://www.worshipweekly.com) December 2017

## Message from Ms. Maddy

The Giving Celebration was a wonderful event with \_\_\_ people in attendance. Thank you to everyone who gave and participated in this special event. Many hands made light work, with set up, serving, and clean up. Also, at the celebration, were the ladies from **Five Cities Christian Women's' Food Pantry**. We presented them with the money that was collected during the month of November. They will use this money to purchase turkeys for the Christmas Baskets which will be given to families in our community, who are in need, this season. Watch the fundraising board to find out how much money we collected. Every \$1 we contributed, was equivalent to \$10, at the Food Pantry. They were very thankful for the money we collected.

This month, each family will receive a "Family Heritage Information Sheet". This is another way we can work together to build the relationship between home and school. Please complete and return it to your child's teacher. This project will help us to learn more about your family and the traditions you may celebrate. If your family has a tradition, that you would like to share with your child's classmates, please make sure to speak to your child's teacher. We hope everyone feels welcomed and connected here, as we invite you to share your traditions with us. I look forward to the New Year, fostering relationships with the children and families, supporting a dedicated staff, and providing quality care to the children in our program.

We invite everyone to celebrate the season, by coming to our "**Children's Christmas Program**" on **Thursday, December 14, at 6:30 pm**. The Christmas Program will be held in the sanctuary and will last about 30 minutes. The program will be followed by "**Treats and Goodies Pot-Luck Social**" in Criswell Hall. The Sign Up for the Social will be on the Sign In/Out table.

We are selling **See's Candy for the Holidays**. Don't stand in the long line at the store; **ORDER FROM US BY FRIDAY, DEC 1**. The candy will be ready for you to pick up on Friday December 15. This fundraiser will help raise funds for our Staff's Professional Development.

**On Friday, Dec 22**, we will be having a "**Pajama & Pizza Party**". This day is also a **Minimum Day**. We will serve lunch at 11:30 am, because of it being a minimum day. **School will close at 12:00 noon**. We will be celebrating the beginning of our **Christmas Vacation**.

**Have you completed your Family Survey?** Surveys are due by Wednesday, Dec. 20. You can turn your surveys by putting it in the envelope, on the Information Board, above the Sign In/Out table, or take the survey on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFQNT7C>. Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback regarding your satisfaction of our program. We are truly blessed that you have entrusted us with your greatest gift and are thankful to be a part of your family. Merry Christmas to all and may we have many blessings in the New Year.

## Dates To Remember

- **Friday, December 1** - School Closes at 3:30, for Staff Development. It's **SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY!** Show your school spirit and wear your AGUMCC T-shirt.
- **Thursday, December 14** - **Children's Christmas Program & Social** at 6:30 PM, in the Church Sanctuary (Children arrive in classrooms at 6:15). Social to follow in Criswell Hall.
- **Friday, December 22** - **Pajama Day, Pizza Party, and Minimum Day** - Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school. **School will close at 12:00 noon**.
- **Monday through Friday, December 25-29** - School is closed for **Christmas Break**.
- **Monday January 1** - School is closed for **New Years Day**.

## Fruit of The Spirit: Peace

How can we be peacemakers in our homes and at school? We are going to be learning about using our words and being role models for others. We will be sharing stories like, "You are Special" and, a classic, "The Mitten", to help illustrate how we all can be peacemakers.





## Ms. Shirley and Mrs. Swati's Toddlers

In November we had fun learning about being thankful and respectful. We are thankful for our moms and dads, brothers and sisters, food and home, friends and toys, our teachers too, and all the special things that God has provided us with. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Children had fun making placemats and turkey centerpieces with pumpkins. I hope you all enjoyed them, on your Thanksgiving dinner table. Children loved exploring and pretend to cook with pumpkins in the dramatic play area. We talked about the different kinds, sizes and colors of pumpkins. We even tried measuring the pumpkins. The children also experienced scooping the seeds out. They also had fun shucking corn and talking about the different parts; the husk, kernels, and hair or silk. We even talked about the different ways corn is used. They were very helpful in mixing and stirring the batter for our delicious corn bread.

December is a month that we all happily look forward to. In this busy month, we will talk about a variety of holiday celebrations and Jesus' birth. We will also talk about families, friends, love, giving and sharing. We are lucky to have families from a variety of different cultures/religions who celebrate in different ways. It is so wonderful for us to be able to share our individual holiday traditions and to learn and appreciate our similarities and differences. I encourage all our families to sign-up and take some time to share your family's traditions with us. In December, we will have a Post Office in our dramatic play area. Children will have fun pretending to deliver mail and preparing gift boxes. We will also be practicing our Christmas song for the Christmas Program. Wow! has this year gone by so fast. I can't believe that it is already December. In just a few short weeks, we will be having our Christmas break.

Once again, thank you to the families that helped us with laundry and making playdough. Your support is greatly appreciated. Have a fun break and we wish all of you a Holly Jolly Christmas and a Happy New Year!! I look forward to our time together in 2018.

~ Ms. Swati

## Cindy Bo's Young Toddlers

I hope those of you who were able to attend, enjoyed our Giving Celebration this year. It was so nice to share that time with you and your children. Thank you, also, to all those who donated spare change for our "Pennies for Turkeys" jar. I'm excited to welcome Roman Doramus (our first boy!) to our Young Toddler group, this month. Welcome Roman, Jessica (mom), Michael (dad), and Anastasia (sister)! During the month of November, the Young Toddlers continued to demonstrate how much they have learned about our class routines and about each other. They have been demonstrating empathy as they check on a friend who is hurt or offer something they think another child is interested in. It is very sweet! Families shared with me, that their children are saying parts of our meal time prayer, at home. They have also been mentioning the names of their friends, at home and on the way to school, eager to see them. It is so special to hear their simple communications and to observe them holding hands or hugging one another. In November, the Young Toddlers enjoyed exploring the farm animal play figures and puppets, and especially enjoyed songs and activities that gave them a chance to practice farm animal noises. They have all been enjoying our "Music and Movement" times, playing instruments, swinging scarves and imitating song lyrics. They especially enjoyed learning how to "circle to the left" and "circle to the right" as they would hold hands and move in a circle together, dancing to the "Barnyard Boogie". The Young Toddlers had great fun making pumpkin pies together, too. How exciting it was to start with a hard pumpkin, full of pulp and seeds, and work together to end up with a slice of soft, warm, yummy pie! Thank you Ashley (Grace's mom) for helping out with this cooking project! This month we will continue to explore foods that grow and different ways to prepare them. Food is often a big part of our family traditions and holidays, which makes this a relevant topic, extending from the children's interests. I would like to invite you to share your special holiday traditions (pictures, foods, stories, etc.) with our class, if you'd like. We will also be practicing "Jingle Bells", to share with you at our Christmas Program. I hope you all can make it. It is always a special time of getting together and rejoicing over each one of the precious children God has placed in our lives. Merry Christmas!

~ Cindy Bo