

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com. January 2019

Message from Ms. Maddy

Happy New Year! I am sure everyone who was able to come, see, and hear the children in the "Christmas Program", were amazed at how wonderful the children shared the joy of Christmas cheer through songs. THANK YOU to the staff and the children, who spent many days practicing their songs, in preparation for this fun family event. THANK YOU to the families who brought goodies to share, after the program.

2018 was a very busy year, with many fun filled events, that fostered learning and friendships. I extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all the families that have chosen our program. It is our desire to provide the best of quality care to children by offering a low child to teacher ratio and an environment that is enriching, both inside and outside the classroom. The "National Association for the Education of Young Children" (NAEYC) sets the standards of quality, which we follow, and which continues to guide our staff. Also, we are participating in the "Quality Counts" program, provided through the San Luis Obispo Child Care Planning Council. This program will offer our staff continued education opportunities, as well as stipends for their professional and educational achievements.

The Fall Survey results are in. Overall, 78% of the families were "very satisfied" and 17% were "satisfied", with our program. The two main reasons why families chose our program was for age appropriate curriculum and our low child to teacher ratio. (See the attached summary for details). Thank you to everyone who turned in their survey.

Are you getting e-mails from me? If not, and you would like to get monthly reminders about special events and upcoming deadlines, please put your e-mail address in the tuition box.

Do you need extra care from time to time? If so, fill out an "Extra Care Form", then give it to your child's teacher. She will then give it to me for approval. To assure space is available, 24 hour notice is preferable.

Do you need to change your child's contract? We understand that changes occur for families. However, we do have a 30 day written notice policy that is required for families needing to make changes regarding their child care needs. There is always movement in childcare and spaces for children in our program are limited. With this policy in place, when a space does open up for another family, AGUMCC has ample time to notify a new family, so they too can join our program.

BIBLE STORY AND GOODIE BEAR TIME

This month, we will share the story, "Fish for Breakfast", from the Beginning Bible, John 21. Goodie Bear's "Fruit of the Spirit" message will be about "Joy". This special time will be on **Wednesday & Thursday, January 2 & 3 at 9:05 AM**, in the Church Narthex.

Date To Remember

Monday, January 15- School is Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This is also the last day to order Scholastic Books for January.

Fruit of the Spirit Focus for the Month: Joy

We can have joy in the midst of a storm, as Nehemiah (8:10) reminds us that "*The joy of the Lord is your strength*". By assuring children that they are cared for and loved, by God and others, they can have confidence and joy, no matter what comes their way. We will be sharing stories such as *I Like Myself* and *Being Friends*. These stories illustrate the concept of joy through emotion and friendship.

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

Wow! December just flew by! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! We had fun during the month of December. We learned about the letters 'J' and 'K' and started to discuss volcanoes during our class time. We read some books about volcanos, as well as did an experiment with a pumpkin, baking soda and vinegar. We practiced our songs for the Christmas Program, the first couple weeks of December, and then had some fun creating Christmas themed projects. The children enjoyed telling us all about their family's holiday plans they had coming up. Thank you for discussing your heritage and family traditions with our class, too. We look forward to hearing from those of you who are coming this month to



share with us as well. I hope 2019 is a great year for the children as well as for their families!

~ Ms. Carissa

Ms. Daphne and Ms. Maddy's
Preschool Class

A remembrance of December. Our class celebrated Chanukah with the lighting of candles and eating latkes and challah. You can view pictures of us lighting candles on our bulletin board. We made and decorated Christmas trees, with beautiful sparking gems. The children were also busy making and decorating presents for someone special. They were so excited waiting for the holidays. The children talked about their trees, home decorations, and family outings. With the many days practicing their songs for the Christmas Program, it paid off. They did a wonderful job on the night of the performance. We are bringing in the New Year with all things winter. It should be fun...We also wish you the happiest of new years.

~ Ms. Daphne

Ms. Shirley & Mrs. Swati's Toddler

We all happily enjoyed the busy month of December as we talked about many holiday traditions and plans. We talked about families, friends, love, giving and sharing. Children enjoyed decorating Christmas trees and wreaths with packing paper and bows. Children also enjoyed the Christmas lights and decorating the small pine tree with garland, ornaments and candy canes. We learned about the post office and delivering mail through our play mail box and gift boxes in the dramatic area. Of course, we spent a lot of time practicing for our Christmas Program, singing "Jingle Bells" and "Joy, Joy, Joy" as we danced to "Joy to the World". The children enjoyed exploring slime, playdough and shaving cream for sensory time, using different Christmas cookie cutters, too. We are lucky to have families from a variety of different cultures who celebrate different holiday traditions. It is so wonderful for us to be able to share our holiday traditions and to learn and appreciate our similarities and differences. As we begin the month of January, I would encourage all our families who weren't able to share with our class in December, to sign-up to share your family's traditions with our class, this month. Once again, thank you to the families that helped us with laundry, making playdough and, last month, even donating wrapping paper, bows etc.. Your support is greatly appreciated. Wow! This year has gone by so fast. I can't believe that it is January and a new year already! Happy New Year!!

~ Ms. Swati

THANK YOU,
First United Methodist Church Programs
that support the Children's Center in
2018: Endowment Board, Missions Team,
United Methodist Men, and United Methodist
Women.
We greatly appreciate it!!