

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

December 2008

Message from Ms. Maddy

We invite everyone to celebrate the season by coming to our Children's Holiday Program. Children will sing songs that reflect the interest of the children, families, and staff. The program will be held in the sanctuary and will be about 20 minutes, followed by a time of sharing in friendship and enjoying goodies, brought by the families, in Criswell Hall. Our theme this month is "Celebration of Traditions". Please contact your teacher/caregiver if your family has a tradition that you would like to share with your child's classmates. We hope everyone feels welcomed and connected to our program as we invite you to share your own traditions with us. I look forward to the New Year, fostering relationships with the children and families, supporting a dedicated staff, and providing the best care to children in our community.

We still have a **few openings**, both full and part-time. If you know of someone in need of childcare, have them check out our website, at www.worshipweekly.com, for more information about our program. Ms. Maddy is available, by appointment, to families who would like to tour our great program. To schedule an appointment please call 481-2223.

We are now registered, with Vons, to receive eScript \$\$\$\$\$. We can earn \$\$\$, for our school, for by shopping at any Vons Store, with your eScript card that is linked to our school. Our school # is **500020780**. For your convenience an "eScript" form is attached to register your Vons card or any other cards that you may currently use to maximize your contributions through the "eScript" program. You can find out which merchants participate at www.escrip.com For more information regarding the "eScript" program, contact Lori. 481-2223 ex*823. Please turn in your form to the "Tuition Box", Thank you.

December is the time for our **Scholastic Book Fair**. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help the weeks of Dec 8-19th. Please contact Gen Yamada at 431-4521 to volunteer and earn \$10.00 in free books.

Dates to remember

- Staff Development Friday Dec. 5
School will close at 3:30 PM
- Holiday Book Fair Dec. 8 -19 in Criswell Hall during school hours (See scheduled hours)
- Children's Holiday Program & Social Thursday, Dec. 18, 6:30 PM in the Church Sanctuary (Children arrive in classrooms at 6:15). Social to follow in Criswell Hall
- Pajama Day Friday, Dec 19 Wear your favorite Pajamas to school.
- School Closed for Winter Break, Mon., Dec. 22 - Fri., Jan. 2, 2009 (Children return to school on Mon., Jan. 5)



Theme for The Month

"Celebration of Traditions"



Fruit of The Spirit: Peace

How can we be peace makers 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 can be peace makers.

Blessings to all this holiday season!



Ms. Katelynn and Ms. Maddy's Pre-K Class

It was fun celebrating the spirit of giving together at the Giving Celebration last month. Everyone is experiencing energy of excitement as the holidays grow near. We will be channeling some of the enthusiasm to learning how families celebrate different traditions during this time of year, such as Chanukah and Christmas. Also, we will be learning about the letters "H" and "I", review one to one correspondence 0-4, looking out for ABAB patterns, and understanding the concepts of before, after, on, off, more, and less. We hope to see everyone at our Holiday Program, where we are sure to warm your hearts with special songs that the children have been practicing. As we look back on 2008 we have so many things to be thankful for and look forward to the many blessings that lie ahead.

- Ms. Maddy

Ms. Nichole and Mr. Paul's Preschool Class

With all of the fun and learning we have done in the past weeks, we find the end of 2008 upon us. We have worked on learning letters, numbers and colors. In November our environment included a travel agency as dramatic play and a science area to explore and learn about fall fruits, vegetables and gourds. We learned how seeds become plants. We thank all of the families that participated in our fundraiser for teacher CAEYC Conference attendance. As we say good bye to 2008 we welcome the opportunity to learn in 2009. Mr. Paul and Ms. Nichole wish the children a relaxing holiday break with their families and eagerly await their return to school. May everyone have a Happy New Year!

-Mr. Paul

Cindy Bo and Ms. Tierra's Toddlers

We will continue to give thanks as this month reminds us of the incredible gifts God has blessed us with, recognizing the value of family and friends in our celebrations and traditions. There are often a lot of activities going on this time of year that can be stressful for everyone, including the children. This is why we will do our best to provide a consistent and predictable experience for the toddlers in our program. After all, they learn best through the simplest of things, exploration and discovery. Keep this in mind as you think about gift giving as well. Simple "passive toys" such as a ball, a book or blocks can offer hours of pleasure as opposed to an "active toy" such as a battery operated one that is enjoyed one day and tossed aside the next. Sometimes the box and wrapping paper are a better gift than the gift itself. May peace and joy be yours!

-Cindy Bo

Ms. Lori's Young Toddlers

Families, how fast time flies! Here we are at the end of another magnificent year. We have been learning all about the farm; the animals, the land, planting, harvesting, the sale of food and, last but not least, about shipping and delivery to the store. We followed food from farm to family. We learned about how grains, like wheat, are in the bread we eat and how to churn butter. This month we will be hatching eggs and watching the miracle of birth. How exciting this will be. Have a safe and fun holiday, enjoy time with family and friends and see you next year. Wishing all a Happy New Year!

-Ms Lori

**Thank you to everyone who made the Winter Wreath Sale a wonderful success.
We were able to raise \$700.00 for the teachers Education Fund.**

Our school is having a "Pennies for Turkeys" fundraiser to help our local food bank, who is low on turkeys. Every classroom will have a jar to put donations in. To continue in a spirit of sharing and thanksgiving, we will be collecting "pennies" through Friday, December 19th.

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