

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com December 2024

# Message from Ms. Maddy

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "AGUMCC's Community Service Project" and gave their spare change for the Pennies for Turkeys Drive. This is a simple way to help the children understand the needs of others. The Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry also greatly appreciates your contributions. They will use the money to purchase turkeys for the Christmas Baskets, which will be given to families in our community. This year, we collected \$698.39 Yippee!!

Last month, each family received a "Family Heritage Information Sheet." Some families have already shared their family traditions and heritage with their child's class. If you have not completed your question-naire, please complete and return it to your child's teacher. This project will help us learn more about your family and the traditions you celebrate. This project is another way to build relationships and learn more about each family.

The children will practice for our Christmas Program from Monday, December 9, to Thursday, December 12th, from 9:00 am to 9:45 am in the church sanctuary. Our Christmas Program will be on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6:00. Children can wear comfortable attire. Children may over heat if they wear bulky sweaters. On the night of the program, please bring your child to their classrooms by 5:45 pm to prepare for the event. After the Christmas Program, we will have a social in Criswell Hall following the children's performance. Please sign up to bring an item to share and to help with set up and clean up.

On Friday, Dec. 20, we will have a school-wide "Pajama Day." This is also a Minimum Day. School closes at noon. In addition, the school will be closed for Christmas Break from December 23 to December 27, 2024. The school will reopen Monday, Dec. 30th, and be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025, for New Year's Day.

The results of the Family Survey for Fall of 2024 are in. Most survey participants were very satisfied with the overall program, whereas the minority was satisfied. This year, we received 19 surveys out of 25 families. 80% of these results were gathered from the online survey, and 20% were from the pen and paper format. We are glad to meet the needs of both styles to reach the maximum potential of results. Of the families who completed the survey, 100% felt that their child is well cared for, is happy, and enjoys participating in the program. They also felt the program promotes their child's learning and development. The top answers for why families chose our program were the age-appropriate curriculum, socialization, low child-toteacher ratio, and location. 94.4% of the families like to receive information through Childpilot. We can build a strong community through parent involvement, which is vital to our school's success. 43.7 % participated in fundraisers, 32% said they helped with laundry, and 28 % donated supplies to the school. See the attached survey for personal comments. Thank you to all families who participated in the survey. Your feedback is constructive in our efforts to improve our program.

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- <u>Friday, December 6</u>- 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 12 AGUMCC Christmas Program 6:00 in the Sanctuary. A Social will follow in Criswell Hall.
- Friday, December 20- Pajama Party Day and a Minimum Day. Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school. School will close at 12:00 noon. (No lunch that day.)

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- December 23 to 27, 2024 Christmas Break
- <u>Ianuary 1, 25</u> School is closed for New Years's Day

## Friends of the Children's Center CAMPAIGN.

Make a difference in a child's life with a "Year End Gift" or Monthly Pledge

Your tax deductible contribution is safe and easy.

#### Three ways to GIVE:

- 1. Visit: https://www.agumcc.org and use the <u>GIVE NOW</u> button.
- 2. Mail: AGUMCC 275 N Halcyon Rd. Arroyo Grand, CA 93420
- 3. Use this QR code with your smartphone's camera.



BIBLE STORY AND GOODIE BEAR TIME

IN THE NARTHEX WED. DEC. 4 AND THUR. DEC. 5, 2024

Bible Story: "The Good News", from the Beginning Bible, Luke 2:8-20.

"Fruit of the Spirit": Peace.

Verse: Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you.

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I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving Day with all your loved ones. I am thankful for all your support and appreciat each of you. In November children enjoyed various class areas. In the block area, the children were interested in building with the farm set and using the cars and road signs. They were creative building bridges and had awesome conversations about the different places they were going to. Children created a farm by building a fence to make homes for the different farm animals and sorted the animals into different groups. The children had lots of fun using their creativity to build a hideout using wooden blocks and popsicle sticks for the turkeys so they wouldn't get eaten at Thanksgiving.

In the math area, the children had fun with the 'number turkeys' as they practice one-to-one correspondence and number recognition by pinching the clothespins on the turkey to represent the feathers. Our Pennies for Turkeys jar got very heavy as the children added their spare change. They also enjoyed sorting and counting the coins.

For art, children created jellyfish with dabber dots and tissue paper for the tentacles. We also learned about jellyfish. The children then made their own turkey with colorful feathers and were amazed by how the colors blended together. Lastly, children made a special turkey handprint decoration to share with their families on Thanksgiving Day and we talked about the things we're thankful for.

For December, we will transition to pine cones and a Christmas theme. We will focus on the letters M and N. Keep sending your child with beautiful pictures of items starting with the letters, as they really enjoy coming up to the front of the class to and talk about their pictures. We will introduce the star shape and discuss it's many sides and corners. We will be practicing writing numbers during our table work and writing our names and letter formation. Lastly, the bible will focus on "Peace" after hearing the story of the "Birth of Jesus." We wish you and everyone a warm and safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ~ Ms. Swati

### Ms. Liz Preschool Class

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you. Christmas is almost here, and I'm excited to spend the month of December with the children and learn how you spend the holidays in your family tradition. We have a world map up in the classroom and are learning

on the map where families are from. Charles's family originated from Honduras, Ireland, and Germany. They believe family time is very important because they can get together to bake, cook, and play! We are excited to try their peanut put balls and monster cookies after Christmas. Daphne's family enjoys making an annual family cookbook and is willing to share this with the class. Daphne's family originated from Germany, which is a Pennsylvania Dutch tradition. They enjoy eating pork and sauerkraut on New Year's Day! This month, I can't wait to read about more family traditions and heritages.

As the weather begins to change, please dress your child accordingly. In our area, the climate can be cold, like winter in the mornings, crisp spring at lunchtime, and very warm summer in the afternoon. We always recommend dressing in layers for the colder weather for a successful day. This also allows us to help work with your child on zippers and buttons. In the classroom, there is a puzzle to help the children with buckles, zippers, shoelaces, and buttons.

This month, we have exciting plans for the Preschool classroom. We have transformed the dramatic play area into our own Post Office where children will mail cards and presents to each other and learn about important jobs done by mail delivery persons. We will be working on a fun holiday art project, decorating
Christmas trees and making ornaments There will be new things in the classroom for the children to enjoy such as a train track with trains and a nativity set. They will also learn the story of Baby Jesus. We appreciate everyone taking the extra time to adapt to the new procedures. Please continue checking your child's folder and personal and lunch cubbies daily during pickup. Also, double-check that your child has a change of clothes at school. Otherwise your will receive a call to bring them which could not be very convenient. Happy Holidays and Blessings for a Happy

## Ms. Sibyl & Ms. Cindy Bo's Toddler Class

The holiday season is here, and it's time to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus and remember the reason for this season. We hope that everyone's Thanksgiving was a blessing from above. In November, we had so many things to be thankful for, such as the blessings we received, our families, and the return of Ms. Sibyl. It was a joy to substitute for Ms. Sibyl during her recover and we are glad she is back and feeling better. We saw lots of kind acts from the children and posted Kindness Awards on the board for everyone to see. The children enjoyed our many pumpkin activities, especially the homemade pumpkin pies. During group, the children liked the turkey that wobbled and sang.

This month, the children will be busy making Christmas projects and learning Christmas Songs as we prepare for our Christmas program. Let the season's joy be ever present this month and remember that "Jesus is the reason for this season." ~ Ms. Shirley

New Year! ~ Ms. Liz