

December 2013

UNITY SCHOOL

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PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Happy winter, Unity families!

I want to tell you about the Winter Celebration coming up on December 13th from 6:30-8. This event will take place at Sheldon Community Center. Each class performs a song or two; classes will make yummy treats, and provide fun activities. Please note, this event will not be at Unity School. Also, I want to reiterate that the doors will not open for this event until 6:30. We hope to see you there! Be looking for more information, as we get closer to this event.

Have you noticed our community donation boxes out in the lobby? The Butterfly classroom is working to fill a box for the Relief Nursery and the Ladybug room is collecting donations for Food for Lane County. Please feel free to help and support both classrooms to fill up their boxes!

Remember, with the cooler temperatures you will want to provide your child with warm coats and extra layers of clothing. Gloves, hats, and warm boots help make your child's outside time more enjoyable. This time of year also brings runny noses and other sickness. Please remember to keep your child home if they are feeling under the weather so we don't spread illness around. Be on the look out for our classroom-wishing tree. The teachers will post items they would like for their classroom and if you would like to donate an item that would be wonderful!

Upcoming closure reminders: December 24th, 25th & January 1st.

Please notify us if your child will be absent during the holiday season. Enjoy your holiday.

Thank you! Have a great month!

Susanne & Chris

**SEASON
GREETINGS**

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PANDAS

Panda Families,

What fun we've had this month! After our trip to the pumpkin patch last month, we really got interested in farms and gardens. In the beginning of the month, Dawn took us to the garden so we could dig up potatoes! We talked about some of our favorite foods that come from the garden, like pears and apples for example.



Also on the topic of farms/gardens, we played with barns and farm animals, sang songs about some of our favorite farm animals, and even practiced making animal sounds. We even got to put real straw in our barns.

With all the talk about foods from the garden and farms, we moved on to focus on food: our favorite foods, foods that are good for our bodies, and where some foods come from. We even had two dental hygienists visit to talk to us about which foods are good for our teeth and which aren't. We decorated our own pizzas, made food collages, worked on food puzzles, sorted foods by food groups, and even washed our own dishes and food.

We noticed that foods come in many shapes and colors, and started focusing on what those shapes and colors are. We are beginning to learn how to sign some of our colors, too.

In our class, we are working on a new labeling system for our toys and play areas. Each toy basket and toy shelf has a picture for the children to see where their toys go when they are finished. We are working very hard on cleaning up our space before we leave.

Once again thank you for checking that your child has enough appropriate clothing for the weather, including a warm coat, as well as washing your child's rest blanket weekly.



Cherri, Celia, and Libby

CATERPILLAR

Hello wonderful Caterpillar families!

November went by quickly. We are now in the midst of the cold weather and holiday hustle and bustle.

During this holiday season, we would like to take the opportunity to fundraise for animals in need. We will be

collecting donations of food, toys, beds, and kitty litter for Green Hill. There is a box by the cubbies in the Caterpillar room where you can put your donations.

The Caterpillars welcomed new friends this past month. We would like to welcome Rilee, Reilly, Isabel, Isaiah and their families to Unity School.

During November we were still very interested in the novelty of dressing up and make believe from Halloween, so we spent the first couple of weeks playing dress-up, role play, and pretending as well as exploring fairy tales and folk tales. We then moved to textures inspired by glitter, shiny jewels, and flubber. We pretended to be scientists and explored soft vs. hard, shiny vs. dull, and smooth vs. rough. We finished the month exploring our 5 senses. We did a blind folded taste test, played guess that smell, and sound and played I spy.

We have started using a more detailed activity sheet. There are two sheets, one for morning and one for afternoon. These sheets will make it easier for you to see what we are up to during the day. The developmental areas are now in red. There is a developmental content key in red at the bottom of the form and we will put red initials next to the developmental areas that each project and circle time focuses on.

Happy Holidays From the Caterpillar teachers,

Tara & Joanna

LADYBUGS

Tis the season to be thankful and the ladybugs are very thankful! We thank all those who help our class run smoothly, we thank all those who donated to our food drive and we thank all of the smiling faces that help our children meet individual goals.



We're excited for the Unity's annual winter Carnival, December 13th, and hope to see you all there.

Keep your eyes open for our class wish list in the lobby. We also want to say thank you to the families who signed up for pet care in December

We have a new Ladybug schedule up in the classroom, and you should have gotten one in your mailboxes. The schedule explains which group of children is doing what at what time of day. Hopefully this will help parents know more about what their child is doing and when. If you have any questions about the schedule or anything else, please ask Dot or Michelle.

Happy Holidays!

Love Dorothy, Michelle, Mandolin, and Terry

BUTTERFLYS

Happy December Butterfly Families!

This year has flown by so fast! Your children are so amazing and a joy to spend our days with.

Thank you to all the families who donated baby items for the Relief Nursery. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated!

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our "Stone Soup" feast! What a fun gathering it was! We are so glad you were here!

After all the holiday "hubhub" is over, we will be planning more fun field trips and classroom visitors, so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information!

In case your children have talked about this, we have had a new volunteer in our class! Her name is Miss Paula, and she joins us on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00 - 12:00. If you have any questions, please feel free to chat with Pammie or Cassie.

All of us Butterfly teachers would like to wish you and your families a wonderful, safe, and love filled holiday season! Thank you so much for sharing your amazing children with us! We just adore them all!



Hugs and Smiles,

Pammie, Dorothy, Cassie and Chandra

OTTER PUPS

Dear Otter-pup families,

I hope everyone is staying dry out there with the rainy season upon us! Thanks for sending your child to school with rain boots and a rain jacket so that

they can explore the wonders and changes of the season in all of the different weathers. Don't forget the cold season is also here. Your children will need their heavier jackets, gloves, hats, etc. PLEASE put names on your child's items as well!!! There are a lot of nice jackets in the lost and found.

There have been all kinds of learning going on with the Otter-pups! The sounds that the full-day kinders have focused on for November were Ss for saw, Tt for tiger, Oo for ostrich, and Dd for dog. I hope you all got the a-b-c flashcards I sent home with your child and are able to use them



to practice sounds and letter identification. This month, I will send home flash cards for the 'high-frequency' words we have been working on learning. Also, I will start sending a math packet home with your child for them to complete at home or at Unity. There will not be a deadline of when they need to turn it in, but they will get their next packet once they turn it in.

The 'webs' for the month of November have been about: Scary things, spiders, big boats, and communication. I am very happy to see that they are really grasping the idea of how important it is to use their words to solve problems and how to be effective about it.

The pumpkin patch field trip sure was a blast! Thanks to all of the family members who were able to join us. We have not done any other field trips this school year because the students have really funky schedules. But, we will be going on some trips during 'Winter Break,' which will be Dec. 3rd through Jan. 6th this year. I will post those trips ASAP so you can make your plans. Also, please let us know if your child will be on vacation.

Thanks and happy holidays!

Sincerely, Teachers Jessica, Whitney and Sara

OTTERS

Dear Otters and Otter families

Fun Fact: A group of otters is called a *family*, a *bevy* or a *romp*. When they are swimming collectively, they are sometimes called a *raft* of otters.



You may notice a paper garland in one of the corners of our classroom. The Otters have started adding loops when they observe their peers performing acts of kindness and working and playing with safe hands. The students chose the green loops to represent kind actions/behaviors and the pink loops to indicate safe hands. Once the garland reaches from one corner of the classroom to the opposite corner we will celebrate all of the Otters achievements with a classroom party!

Speaking of parties, the Unity Holiday Party will be Friday December 13th. The Otters have started brainstorming performance ideas. They have the option of putting on a seasonal skit, a short dance, reciting a poem, or singing a song.

Lastly, winter is approaching and along with it more rainy days and icy cold mornings and evenings. Please make sure that your student has sufficient foul-weather gear to play and run outside. You may also consider bringing a pair of boots and/or gloves to store at Unity.

Wishing all of our Otter families a Happy Thanksgiving and a warm holiday season.

The Otter Teachers,
Whitney, Jessica and Sara

December 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5 	6
9	10	11	12	13 
16 	17	18	19	20
23 	24 	25 	26	27
30	31 	JANUARY 1 st UNITY SCHOOL IS CLOSED		