

# UNITY SCHOOL

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## PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Hello Unity Families!

Thank you for joining us for the Harvest Carnival! It was such a blast, and I think the adults enjoyed themselves as much (if not more than) the kids! We had a great turnout, lots of fabulous games, and a ton of excitement!

Coming up soon is our Winter Celebration on Friday Dec. 13th from 6:30-7:45pm. This event will take place at Sheldon Community Center. Each class will perform a song and each classroom will have activities for all to play! It's another perfect opportunity to meet others and have fun! We'll keep you posted, as we get closer to the date.

We love the fall, beautiful colors and sunny days here and there. The weather can change quickly, so please take a moment to check your child's cubby. Do they have rain gear, gloves & hat?

What about an extra sweater or jacket? The temperature can vary this time of year and we want to make sure your child is as comfortable as possible during our outside play times.

Along with weather changes, this time of year is when we start to see runny noses, coughs, and fevers. Please keep a close eye on your child for any of these symptoms and be sure to keep them home to rest so we can minimize any spread of sickness. Children do need to be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Thanks for keeping our school healthy!

We have a new suggestion box! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please fill out a comments form and place in the tuition/suggestion box. We appreciate your feedback!

<u>PROGRAM DIRECTORS</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>PANDA</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>CATERPILLAR</u>	<u>2&amp;3</u>
<u>LADYBUG</u>	<u>3&amp;4</u>
<u>BUTTERFLY</u>	<u>4&amp;5</u>
<u>OTTER PUPS &amp; OTTERS</u>	<u>5&amp;6</u>
<u>HOLIDAY TIPS</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>UNITY'S WISH LIST</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>CALENDAR</u>	<u>7</u>

Please mark your calendar in advance that Unity School will be closed for the Holidays November 28th & 29th. We will also be closed December 24th, 25th and January 1st. Check the lobby calendar each month for up to date information. If your child will not be in school due to planned vacations please let the office know as soon as possible so we can staff accordingly.

Happy November,  
Susanne & Chris



## PANDA

Hi Panda families,

Wow, fall is definitely in full swing! We have been enjoying the cool, crisp weather outside. Thank you for ensuring that your child has extra warm clothes, boots, and possibly a hat and gloves.

In October we focused on safety, fall, and farms and gardens. Our garden teacher, Dawn, took us to the garden many times last month to help her, and we got to pick apples. We worked on using our bodies and toys while making sure we are safe, as well as, our friends. We played with barns, farm animals and real hay, and noticed the leaves changing colors and falling from the trees. We even took a walk around the neighborhood to collect some really pretty leaves. Have you seen the lanterns we made with them?

What a blast we had at the Harvest Carnival! It was so great to see you all join us. We hope you had as much fun as we did.

And, We can't forget about our trip to Johnson Farms. We loved the bumpy Tractor ride, and throwing the little pumpkins out of it. Then walking around we got a little dirty, but we each found the perfect pumpkin. Finishing our trip by saying "hi" to the goats.

Thank you to all the parents who could join us on our fun pumpkin patch trip. Happy Fall

Cherri, Celia, and Libby

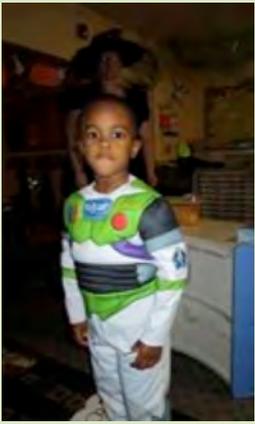
## CATERPILLAR

Hello Caterpillar Families;

Wow, How October has flown by. With all of the fun events such as the trip to the pumpkin patch as well as the awesome Harvest Carnival time has rushed by so quickly. Thank you to everyone that was able to attend one or both of those functions; your involvement is what makes Unity such a special school.

In November we will be continuing to work on building relationships with new friends. We are very excited and pleased to announce that over the next couple of weeks we will be transitioning over a few Panda's as well as welcoming a few new students to our room. So, in addition to building relationships we will be working on learning how to use our words to express our feelings, needs, and wants. We will also be learning our peers' faces, and working on recognizing their emotions with all the new changes they are facing.





Just a friendly reminder, parents please check out the parent board. This will keep you posted on our up-and-coming events as well as what your child is currently working on. We still have quite a few spots that need to be filled on our "Pet Care sign up sheet, and all about me wall.

With all the holidays on there way we just want to remind all of those that will be traveling to please let the office know what days your child may be out. Enjoy all of your precious family time and be sage in your travels. Since the weather is changing more and more as the days go by we would like to remind you once again to please make sure your child has a nice warm jacket, rain coat,



boots, and extra clothes each day. We will still be going outside to play, rain or shine.

Have a great month,

Tara & Joanna

## LADYBUG

Hello Ladybug families, it is so hard to believe that November is here!

The Ladybugs have been so busy that October has flown right by. We went on a field trip to the pumpkin patch, we played hard at the Harvest Carnival, and we had a really fun pajama day! The children were introduced to phonics, shapes, colors, and different concepts. They really showed an interest in the changing colors outside, and collecting leaves.

Moving into November, we have changed a few things with our class structure. We have split the class into small groups that will rotate their time in the classroom to minimize the noise and energy level inside. This also allows The Ladybug teachers to achieve their goal to provide more opportunities for the children to safely and effectively socialize with each other, problem solve, and to practice following a routine. So far, we have seen a lot of progress. Please see Teacher Dot or Michelle if you have any questions about the new changes and how they work.

The month of November brings our community service project, our stone soup lunch, and fall assessments. It also brings three new friends to our classroom we would like to welcome.

The weather has turned colder lately and we go outside even when it's cold or raining. So, please send weather appropriate clothes like boots, coats, hats, mittens, and even an extra change of clothes with your child, so they will be warm and comfortable at school. We would also like to remind you to only bring one small lovey for nap; the pillow pets have become a challenge to store.



Happy Fall, The Ladybug team,

Dot, Michelle, Terri, and Mandolin

## BUTTERFLY

Hi Butterfly Families!

WOW! Hasn't the fall weather been amazing? It's been spoiling us with the warm and sunny day. So, it must be time to gear up for the rain to come! We hope that October was a wonderful month for you all, and that you all enjoyed our Harvest Carnival! As always, it was a huge success! Thank you all for joining us.



As we are sure you have all noticed, your little Butterflies have been very busy, learning all about fall, pumpkins and apples, as well as the letters C, O, G, and A. You have some really smart cookies — that's for sure! And they are all so anxious to learn as much as they can!

### Important Reminders:

- \* Please remember to have a full, weather appropriate change of clothes in your child's cubby at all times. This includes underpants and socks.
- \* If you haven't already done so, please be sure to bring a pair of rain boots and a raincoat that can stay here at school, marked with your child's name.
- \* As the weather gets a bit cooler, it would be nice for your child to have a crib sheet, if you have one, to put on his/her nap mat. The mats are covered with plastic, and lay on the floor, so it will add a bit of extra warmth and comfort during rest time. (Please do not go out and buy one if you don't have one already).

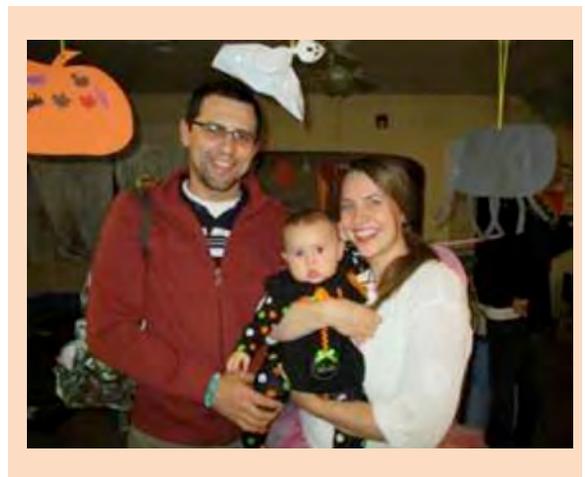
### Important Dates

- \* Sunday, November 3 — Change your clocks "back" one hour at 2:00 AM
- \* November 4 through November 27 — Community Service "Diaper & Blanket Drive" for The Relief Nursery.
- \* Tuesday, November 26th — "Stone Soup" Friendship Feast (Lunch) BF Families are invited to join us
- \* Thursday & Friday, November 28/29 — Unity Closed ~ Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you so very much to all of the parents who were able to join us on our super fun field trip to Northern Lights Tree Farm, Pumpkin Patch trip! It was so fun to have you with us. The children (and us teachers) had a GREAT time!!!

We all wish you all a wonderful, safe and fun-filled November! Thank you all for sharing your amazing children with us! Hugs & Smiles Always!

From your Butterfly teaching team,  
Pammie, Dorothy, Cassie and Chandra



## OTTER PUP & OTTER



Dear Otter-pup families,

Hi! We hope everyone is well. I know that it is hard to stay well this time of year with all of the germs that are going around. Thank you for keeping your child at home when he/she is sick or feeling under the weather so we can stop the spread of illness! If you could also talk to your child about the importance of washing hands with soap and using tissues to blow their nose (instead of fingers) to stop the spread of germs, that would help a lot!

The weekly topics of learning for October have been: Animals, Day of the Dead, Skeletons, and Scary things (feelings.) Can you tell this is the month of Halloween

based on the topics of study? The children got interested in 'Day of the Dead' because the 'Otters' had the idea to use this Mexican celebration as a theme for our Harvest Carnival. What a great idea! It can be sad to think about our loved ones who have moved on but it is important for children to know about the whole cycle of life. Many of the children have talked about how they have been respecting and remembering those that have died at home. Thank you for extending their learning to 'home life!'

The full-day kindergartners have been working hard on learning reading skills. We use a phonics-based program, so we focus on a different sound each week. So far, they have learned: short a, n, p, m, and s. Please check the 'Parent News' board to find out what sound we are working on for the week. I have sent home a copy of the a-b-c flash cards we use in the classroom. You can use these at home by mixing them up, flashing them to your child and asking them to identify either the letter or the sound of the letter. You could also mix them up and ask your child to put them in order.

With the colder weather, please make sure your child is dressing appropriately. Layers are always a good idea when it is cold in the morning and warmer in the afternoon. You may need to start sending your child to school with gloves and a hat soon. We have some extras here at Unity, but not enough for everyone. Please label your child's items with their names! We feel bad when your child's things get lost or misplaced but it would help a lot if you could label them with initials or the full name.

Thanks for your communication about your child's absences and transportation needs! Take care,

Teachers Jessica, Whitney, Sarah, and Dawn

## Tips for Traveling with Kids

Here are some tips for keeping your kids (and yourself) safe (and sane) during your travel adventures:

- **Give your child time to adjust.** Let him know what to expect. Mark the date of departure on the calendar and talk about it with your child: Will there be big trees? Lakes? Snow? A beach? Big buildings, Bridges, Museums, etc.?
- **Keep a predictable routine for your child**—bedtimes and mealtimes—will help everyone's stress levels down.
- **Bring new toys and books.** Something that your child has never seen before will hold her attention far longer than something that has been played with dozens of times already. Remember that sometimes it's hard for children to entertain themselves. Sing songs, play I-Spy, tell stories, count, or people-watch together while waiting in lines or in traffic.
- **Bring food.** Protein rich snack like peanut butter, hummus, and cheese sticks help keep your child feeling full longer, which keeps them less grumpy.
- **Be empathetic and supportive.** Tell your child, "You sound tired. Your body has been on a long trip and we only have a little while longer to go! What a great job you're doing! Grandma will be so proud when she hears how you stayed calm during the trip. How about playing a game for a few minutes?"
- **Keep a travel journal about your adventures.** You can write what your child says and ask clarifying questions (older children can write their own journal). Your child can add illustrations and later, add your photos of the trip. Encourage your child to share with teachers and classmates at school.



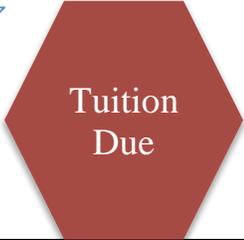
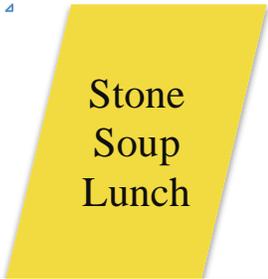
## Unity Wish List

During the upcoming winter season, if you come across any of the following items in your travels, we at Unity are hoping to add to our multicultural items in class.

- Textiles that reflect other cultures (batik prints, brocade, etc)
- Cookware, eating utensils from other countries (chop sticks made for children, wok, bamboo steamer, etc)
- Musical instruments from around the world, such as:
  - Kokiriko (Japanese percussion instrument)
  - Kalimba (African thumb piano)
  - Gourd shakere (African percussion instrument)
  - Rain Stick

Thank you!

# NOVEMBER 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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4	5 	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22 
25	26 	27	28 	29 