

FEBRUARY 2014

UNITY SCHOOL

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PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dear Unity Families,

The first month of 2014 is almost over and February is approaching fast. We hope that all Unity families have been staying warm and healthy during this first month of the New Year.

Every classroom is nearly full except for our Panda class. If you know anyone with a 2-year-old needing care, please send them our way!

When you are in the building, please take a moment to enjoy some of the creative and unique projects your amazing children are a part of every day at Unity school--beautiful works of art are popping up throughout every classroom!

Please remember to limit your parking in the pull-through driveway to five minutes. If you think you might take longer than 5 minutes inside, just pull into a parking slot to give others room to pull through.

Here at Unity, we always celebrate love and kindness; this month, in particular, we encourage our families to participate in a friendship celebration on Friday, February 14th. Each classroom will be doing individual activities, so please check in with your child's teacher for more information. There will be time for the kids to exchange tokens of appreciation with each other and we encourage homemade crafts and cards. No sugary treats, please!

Thanks for being a part of our ever-expanding community. As always, it is our pleasure to answer any questions you may have or just stop into our office and say "Hi".

Sincerely,
Susanne and Chris

PANDA

Hello Panda Families,

WOW, it's been a cold couple of months! Thanks so much for sending hats, gloves, and warm coats for your child - it makes outside time more pleasant for your children.

We had a big group move up to the Caterpillar room this month - Henry, Joey, Pennie, & Zaiya - enjoy being a Caterpillar, we'll miss you. We also had 2 new Panda friends join us this month, welcome Jenna and Cordelia.

This month we will be going on a field trip to the Sheldon Library. We will be leaving Unity at 10:15 on Wednesday, February 19th. You are welcome to join us or meet us there for story time if you would like. If you need directions, just ask Teacher Cherri or Celia.

In January, we talked about families, babies and animals that live in the wild, a zoo, an ocean, or in our homes as pets. We also enjoyed a visit from the fire dog, Casey. We talked about fire alarms and what we do when we hear one. ASK your child about where the Pandas Meet on the playground and what they need to do - They know!

We will also be having a friendship party on Friday February 14th. If you want to bring friendship cards, please just sign your child's name and bring one for each child - this makes it

easy to pass them out. Also remember, "NO CANDY". A sticker or little items are great though.

Thank you,
Teacher Cherri & Teacher Celia



CATERPILLAR

During January, our Caterpillar family grew. We welcomed Mischa as the morning teaching assistant and welcomed four children from the Panda room - Zaiya, Pennie, Henry, and Joey.

With new additions and excitement over movement, we have moved our circle time area so that we have lots of room to move without bumping into each other and everyone can move freely. Some of our favorite movement activities are moving to music with direction like "Shake Your Sillies Out", "So The Twist", and "Tooty Ta". Yoga is also becoming quite popular. The children love the snake, cat, dog, and tree poses.



We had a big focus on building and construction. We used tools with blocks and with play-doh, matched colors, made patterns with Legos, and made a zoo with small colored blocks.

All this building led to, "how to put things together and take them apart". The Caterpillars enjoyed tearing and cutting paper then putting it back together with glue, tape, and stickers. We also worked on individual and group puzzles, putting smaller objects inside of others, and ordered pairs.

February Brings Valentine's Day, which means Friendship Day for us, we will be doing arts and crafts and friendship activities. You are welcomed to bring hand made or store bought cards, but remember **NO CANDY OR SWEETS**. Stickers, or art supplies such as glitter, jewels, hearts, or doilies are more than welcome. Parents are always welcome too!

UPDATES & REMINDERS

- Gloves & hats for outside play
- Label children's items
- Keep special items at home
- Sign up for a turn on the "All About Me" board
- Friday is sharing day
- We are currently planning a field trip, so look out for updates on the parent board, by the children's cubbies.

Happy February,
Caterpillar staff

LADYBUG

Welcome to February Ladybug families,

January has come and gone and we are already looking forward to spring being right around the corner. In January we investigated new topics: such as, our moon, the stars, and outer space. The Ladybugs have been word whizzes as well, working together to form "M", "N", "O", and "P" wordlists. We hope to reward their efforts with field trips; we'll keep you posted.

Please pay close attention to our classroom door for information regarding the friendship party on February 14th. We will be exchanging homemade cards, but **NOT** candy or sweets.

Last but not least, please take home the large pillows and loveys. They don't fit in our bags.

Love, your Ladybug Teachers,
Dorothy, Michelle, Terri, and Mandolin



BUTTERFLY

Hi there Butterfly families!

I'm not quite sure how we are going to keep up with how fast this year is flying by! January was such a fun and busy month here in Butterfly-land, and the children all had such a great time! Between the children filling up the pom-pom jar and getting to choose

goodies from the "treasure box", Zany Zoo fun, our 100 Days of School Celebration, and the fire dog coming to visit, we had our share of fun and excitement! Between all that, there was a LOT of learning going on too!



One of the weeks in January, we focused solely on Germs and Staying Healthy. Our hope is that your children came home and talked to you about all the gross and educational experiments we did, along with the "Five Steps to Washing Our Hands", that they learned! After the experiment we did regarding hand washing, we are feeling pretty confident that your children are now "experts" at that task! If you don't know about it, please ask your children! (Water, soap, scrub (making lots of bubbles), rinse and dry)! The children will also be able to show you "where" on our hands people miss the most.

With cold and flu season in full swing, we are asking that if your child shows any signs of illness (fever, bad cough, colored mucus, aches and pains, vomiting, diarrhea or lethargy, please, please, please, keep them home! We understand that missing work is difficult, but the only way we can help keep all of the children and staff healthy is by not having sick children at school. Unity's policy is that children are not to return to school until they are "symptom free" for 24 hours. If your child gets sick while at school, we will call you and ask that they be picked up ASAP. Thank you so much for your support in this matter!

It has been VERY cold in the mornings (in the 30's), so please remember to send your child to school in a thick warm coat, a hat and gloves or mittens. If this is not possible, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you. We want our children to be as comfy and warm as possible. Also, when it rains, please remember to bring raincoats and boots, as we do go outside even when it's raining. Thank you!!!!

Thank you to all of the families who signed up and volunteered to take care of our Unity pets over the weekends in January! This kind gesture is not just appreciated by us, but by the animals too! You all ROCK!!!

We will be setting up a couple of field trips for February and March, so please keep an eye out for



information in your mail boxes, and posted outside our room, as well as the Parent Board in the hallway by the office.

On Friday, February 7th, we will be doing "Zumba" with Kara Churchill at 11:45 - 12:15. Ask your children what they learned; I'm sure they would love to talk about it.

Valentine's Day is coming and we'd like to give you some information on how we celebrate at Unity. We will be putting a list of all the children and teachers from our class in your mailbox. Unity encourages families to hand made cards, however we do know that sometimes that is not possible, so whatever works best for you is fine. We ask that if your child wants to bring in cards or treats for their friends, that you DO NOT include any candy or other sweet treats. Excellent alternatives are stickers, small party toys, temporary tattoos, etc. If you bring in candy or sweets, we will have to send them back home with you, which can be very disappointing to the children. We will be having a small, casual "party" during the morning time on Friday, February 14th. If your child does not usually attend school on Fridays, please feel free to add or switch a day if they want to participate!

Well, that's it for this month! We hope you all have a wonderful month full of love, peace, happiness and good health!

Hugs and Smiles,
Your Butterfly Teaching Team

OTTER PUP



Dear Otter-pup families,

We hope you all are staying warm in these cold months! Can you believe it is already February?

Speaking of February, we will be celebrating Valentine's Day by having a 'Friendship Party.' The children will be making envelopes to collect friendship cards in. Your child is more than welcome to make cards for all of their Otter and Otter-pup classmates. There are 25 students with the Otter-pups and Otters combined. They could make 25 cards without labeling who the card is for or I can get you a class list.

January went flying by. The Otter-pups spent time learning about families, numbers and money. I have started a bulletin board with pictures of our students' families up so if you have an extra picture of your child's family that we could hang up in the classroom then we would love it!

We also had our 100th day of kindergarten in January. It was January 23rd and we celebrated by doing different activities related to 100, comparing 100 item collections that the children brought in and we made a pizza with 100 toppings! So fun!

On a different note, I wanted to ask all of you to sit down with your child and have a conversation with them about their 'private body.' It happens around this age that children become extra curious about each other's bodies and their own. The verb-age we use here at Unity is 'Our private body is where a swimsuit covers.' Please talk to your child about those areas needing to stay covered and also what to do if someone touches their 'private body' or asks them to touch theirs. If your child is still growing into a pair of pants and the pants fall down their bottom easily, please have them wear a belt. Talk to me about any additional questions or comments you may have.

I wanted to give a big 'Thank you' to all of our families who donated socks to people in need for our sock drive. We delivered them to Looking Glass. Also, the students who were able to volunteer at Green Valley Rehabilitation Center did a great job helping the residents play Bingo. 'Thank you' to Aaliyah's mom Reina, Rowan's mom Holly, and Bjarke's mom Lotte for joining us and making it a real worthwhile experience. I hope to get us over there again soon! If you are looking to volunteer here at Unity School, please sign up to do weekend pet care. The Otter/Otter-pup class is responsible for that for the month of February. The sign up calendar is on the parent board in the classroom.

Thank you and take care!!

Sincerely, Teacher Jessica, Whitney & Sarah

OTTER

Cheers Otters and Otter Families!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Thank



you to everyone who contributed toward our winter sock drive. I was happy to see *so many* warm socks, in a variety of colors, patterns and sizes. Many individuals who receive services from The Eugene Mission and Looking Glass will have warm and toasty toes thanks to the generosity of our classroom community.

In the spirit Martin Luther King Jr. and providing service to our community, some of the Otters and Otter Pups traveled to the Emerald Valley Rehabilitation Center to visit and play games with the residents. It was fun to watch our students meet and engage with the residents. At the end of our visit many of the Otters expressed enthusiasm to return and suggested, "Next time we should bring some of our cool games!"

The Otters have done a great job transitioning back into our more "traditional" Unity School schedule. Homework time is still provided after p.m. snack and a teacher is always happy to help.

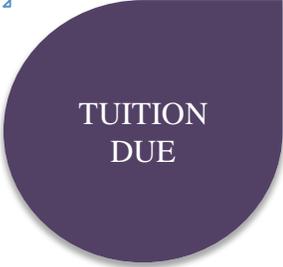
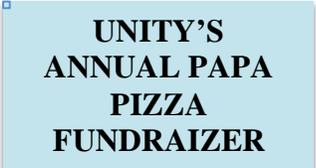
With care,

The Otter Teachers,



FEBRUARY

FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, & HAPPYNESS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3	4	5 	6	7 
10	11	12	13	14 
17 	18	19	20	21
24	25  	26	27	28