

SEPTEMBER

2014

Unity School Newsletter



Welcome Unity Families to the new school year!

This newsletter is to introduce all of the staff here at Unity, and to give you a couple of informative items to think about.

In the future the newsletter will be out around the first of each month until June, and it will give you information and fun things that will be or are happening in each of the classrooms.

It will also have notes from the Office staff and a monthly calendar. I hope you enjoy reading them throughout the year.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Unity friends, Welcome to a new year at Unity School! This is my 29th fall at Unity, and I'm very proud of our programs and of our team. Every one of our staff, whether in the classroom or kitchen or office, is an important part of Unity School. We want you to get to know them all, so you'll find notes from each of them inside this back-to-school edition of our newsletter. In future monthly newsletters we'll share more classroom news.

My own role at Unity has changed over the years. I work part time now, and my focus is on mentoring our lead staff - the Program Directors Susanne and Chris, our Office Manager Virginia, and our Garden Teacher Dawn.

One of the big projects we worked on this year was development of our portfolio for the Oregon Quality Rating Improvement Scale (QRIS). The QRIS is a new system to help programs for young children improve, document the quality of their programs, and be awarded stars to recognize that quality. We have 2 stars now for participation in the portfolio process, and have submitted our portfolio applying for 4 stars (out of 5). We'll keep you posted!

I've been working in the administration of programs for children for over 38 years. After earning my degree in Child Development from Iowa State University I worked in infant care, protective service child care, and as Director of a large Head Start program before moving to Oregon and becoming Director of Unity in 1986.

I love the outdoors, and in addition to working in my garden I love to hike, canoe and travel in my pop-up camper.

I lost my husband Hugh to cancer a couple of years ago. It's been a lot of adjustment and loss for me, but also for Unity. Hugh was our volunteer carpenter and 'fix-it' guy and really helped make Unity School the beautiful place it is for all of us. I appreciate everyone who has jumped in to help keep Unity safe and wonderful.

I hope you'll stop in my office if there is any way I can be of help or just to say Hello! - I'm generally in the office Tuesday through Thursday. Have a GREAT year at Unity School.

Carol Barton
Executive Director

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Welcome Unity families,

First off I would like to welcome all of our new and returning families back to Unity School for a great new year ahead.

My name is Susanne Hodson and I am one of the Program Directors at Unity. October will mark my 21th year at Unity School and it feels like yesterday that I walked through the door for the first time. How time flies when you are having fun!

On a personal note I have a wonderful husband along with three children Taylor, Zachary, and Megan. When I get a free moment I enjoy Camping, Bowling, and my all time favorite BINGO!!! I look forward to the new school year ahead. Please stop by our office any time you have questions or just want to say "HI"!

Susanne H

Hello Unity Families,

Welcome back to school! I'm the PM Program Director here at Unity. I have a BSEd in Early Childhood Education and 30 years experience working with children and families. In addition to being Program Director at Unity School, I'm also a Kindergarten EA at Centennial Elementary School.

In my spare time, I love to work in my garden, raise chickens, and ferment all kinds of foods: I make kombucha, yogurt, kefir, kimchi and sauerkraut, and this year, I'm learning to brew ginger beer.

My husband and I have three daughters. Our youngest attended Unity School when she was 2 years old and loved it, so I am really excited and pleased to be part of the "Unity Family" as a staff member! I hope everyone has a happy, healthy year!

Chris

OFFICE MANAGER

Hi everyone,

My name is Virginia Dare. I have been here at Unity for almost 2 years now. However, I did work at Unity a long time ago - back when it first started out - in 1979 for about a year also. I have lived in the Eugene/Springfield area for over 30 years. I went to Lane Community College and earned Degrees in Office Professional & Accounting, and I also have certificates in Payroll, Bookkeeping, and Small Business.

Over this last year, I have enjoyed meeting all of you and getting to know you and your children. I also love working with the bunch of great people here at Unity. They have made working here a pleasurable experience.

I have been married to a wonderful husband, Randy, for 21 years. We have raised too many kids and are finally enjoying having our house to ourselves. We do however spend a lot of time with our kids and grandkids. We like traveling, hiking, camping, fishing, and family dinners, and we enjoy taking our grandkids for a weekend just to have one on one time with them. I like reading science fiction & romance novels, gardening, crocheting, and I love a good, hard, raining day to where I can spend it watching movies snuggled on the couch with my husband.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for filling out and returning ALL of the paper work I have been throwing at you, and to remind those of you who have not done it yet "I need it turned in by the end of the month."

I hope you enjoy the new school year,

Virginia

PANDA'S

Hi, my name is Cherri Rose and I am the AM Panda Teacher. I have worked at Unity for 8 years now, and I also worked here 15 years ago before my oldest was born. I was born and raised in Oregon, and have been married to my husband, John, for 23 years. We have 2 girls who are 11 and 15, and both of them are very active.

When I am not at work I am usually running my girls around to dance, sports and youth group activities. I love to spend time outside, camping, hiking, skiing or just hanging out with my family.

I am excited to meet all of our new Panda families and getting to watch your kids learn and grow in our class.

Cherri

Hi Unity Families,

I'm Celia, and I am an afternoon Panda teacher, though I recently spent my afternoons in the Caterpillar classroom as well. I started my work at Unity as a Co-op student through Lane Community College's Early Childhood Education Program in October of 2012, and have been here ever since.

I grew up in Astoria, Oregon and moved to the Eugene area in 2007 to start school and live with friends. I now live with my daughter Penelope, some of you already know her.

I enjoy reading. My favorite author is Ann Patchett, though I also really enjoy reading Memoirs. I spend most of my time outside of work doing things with my daughter; coloring, watching movies, making jewelry and playing at the park. We take a lot of trips to Astoria to visit family as well.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you and your children during the up coming year,

Celia

CATERPILLARS

Yay! It is September and that means I get a bunch of wonderful, new, curious Caterpillar friends to get to know and teach. I can't wait to get to know them and their families. It is such a joy to watch young children grow and blossom over the year.

So, a little about me, my name is Tara Olsen. I have been in the preschool world since I was in high school. I have been here at Unity for Two years. I am the morning teacher in the Caterpillar room, so even if your child is in another classroom you will see me in the morning because my room is the room we all gather in during the early morning hours.

Outside of school I spend my time with my family. My daughter, Skylei is four and is in the Butterfly room here at Unity. I also spend time relaxing, reading, watching movies, and of course spending time planning fun things for us to do at school.

I look forward to meeting everyone this year, and I hope you all had a wonderful summer.

Tara

Hello. I'm Jessica, and I am a new PM teacher in the Caterpillar room here at Unity this year!

I have spent the last summer interning here and have recently graduated from the Early Childhood Education program at Lane Community College. I've been working in the childcare field for over 10 years as a part of a parent education program sponsored by LCC, as well as with other related programs in the area.

I have lived in various places around Oregon, but love the Eugene area and just always end up coming back! I enjoy spending my free time reading, singing around campfires, and hanging out with my family. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and working with the kids.

Jessica

LADYBUGS

Hello,

My name is Michelle Naggiar. I have been teaching at Unity School for 3 years now. I got my degree in Early Childhood Education and started working at Unity right out of school. I took over the Ladybug classroom 2 years ago and I love it!!!

I have two children. My daughter is 15 and my son is 19. We have two cats, Yufi and Hana. My kids and I also love watching movies, traveling and going to concerts. We love all kinds of music so we have seen country music concerts, rock concerts, rap concerts, reggae concerts and obscure Internet artists. If your family has a favorite kind of music, we probably love it too!

I am excited to get to know the newest members of our Ladybug classroom as well as continue to play and learn alongside the children I already know so well. It's going to be a great year!

Michelle Naggiar
Teacher, Ladybug Classroom

Hi everyone,

My name is Dorothy Stephens and I've been a teacher for over ten years, with my Associates in Early Childhood Education for the last seven years. I have lived in the Eugene/Springfield area for nearly thirteen years and love the beautiful Oregon outdoors. My favorite things to learn about and teach are Science and Cooking. I love watching children explore how nature works and seeing the awe in their faces when they taste the yummy food they helped to make. My daughter, Amber, attended Unity for several years and still enjoys visiting. We both love spending time with our cat and our family. We also enjoy scrapbooking, reading, playing games and spending time outdoors.

I hope everyone has a great school year!

Dorothy

Wow, my first year at Unity has gone by so fast!

My name is Mandolin and I have the pleasure of working in the ladybug room this last school year. Working with children is my passion and I have enjoyed my many experiences I have had with my students this last year, and look forward to the ones I will have this upcoming year in the Ladybug room as well. I have also enjoyed working with all of my fellow co-workers.

When I am not at work I enjoy reading, going to the movies, concerts and attending plays at the Hult center.

I am excited to start this new year,
Mandolin

BUTTERFLIES

Hi! My name is Pam Rossetter, although everyone calls me Pammie, and I am the morning Lead teacher in the Pre-kindergarten class, the "Butterflies".

I have been teaching here at Unity School for eight years this August and celebrated my 31st year of teaching Preschool (mostly pre-k), this past July! Teaching is truly my passion, and I am super excited to share this year with your children and you!

My husband Doug is also a teacher, and just got hired on at Hamlin Middle School in Springfield! We love living in Eugene and all that it offers! Our lives are pretty busy taking care of our big garden, five chickens and a LOT of cats (we rescue strays/ferals), but we try to make time to head to the beach a few times a year, which is one of our favorite places to relax!

Well, now that you know a bit about me, I can't wait to get to know you and your family, as we spend this year together! It's going to be GREAT!

Hugs and Smiles,
Pammie

Hello Butterfly Families!

I am so excited to start this school year off and I hope you are too! This is my second year at Unity School and my eleventh year as a teacher, I am so grateful to be able to have a job that I love as much as I do this one, and working with kids is the best!

I graduated in 2008 from the University of Oregon with a double major in History and Political science. I was a leader in the honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha and helped students as coordinator of the peer-counseling program. I was named in "who's who of American college students" and was student employee of the year. Afterwards, I attended Pacific University in the Masters of Education program. I was chosen as the student representative for my education cohort.

I live in Eugene with my husband, Matt, and our daughter Maya (who will be a Butterfly student this year!). We share our home with 2 loud and well-loved pugs that Maya calls her Brothers. For fun, we like to play sports, visit the public library and travel. This summer we were very lucky in being able to watch Orca and humpback whales swim in the wild. It was amazing and beautiful.

I look forward to getting to know you and your families this year,
Cassie

OTTER PUPS & OTTERS

Welcome to a new school year!

My name is Jessica and I work in the Otter classroom. The Otter-pups are the kindergartners and the Otters are our after-School group in grades 1st-5th. I have been working with this group for the past 6 years and worked for 2 years with the preschoolers' here at Unity as an assistant while I finished getting my Bachelor's Degree.

In my free time I enjoy gardening, cooking, knitting, bicycling, drawing and hanging out with my husband of 2 1/2 years and our 2 dogs.

I hope you all have a great school year,
Jessica

Hello Unity Parents:

I'm Sarah and I have enjoyed working with children from six weeks to twelve years of age for a number of years. After high school I completed a course in Child Day Care through International Correspondence Schools. I have been with Unity for a little over a year now. I started subbing last April while I was attending Lane Community College pursuing my degree in Human Services. I have had the privilege of spending time in each of the classrooms, which has helped me get to know our Unity family. This past year I became assistant teacher in the Otter room, working with Jessica and the school agers. I am happy to be a part of the team here, and help create positive experiences for your children.

I look forward to meeting you all during the new school year,
Sarah

SUPPORT TEACHERS

Hello from the Unity Garden!

My name is Dawn Sewell, the garden teacher at Unity. I also am a support teacher in the classrooms when needed.

I have worked at Unity for many years and enjoy teaching the aspects of planting, growing and

cooking food and flowers with all the children here at Unity and some of the teachers too.

Each class has part of a day during the week to spend in the garden with their teacher and myself planting, nurturing, harvesting and preparing food from our garden. There are also several nature projects the children enjoy doing throughout the year.

Animal care is also one of the skills we teach at Unity, with a cat, five rabbits, a guinea pig, and a variety of wild birds the children and I enjoy and tend to.

I've lived in Eugene with my husband of 40 years, chef Ray Sewell, my daughter, Shine, her husband, Kyle, and my granddaughter, Annabella who is 2 1/2 years old.

Come visit the Unity Garden with your child and enjoy our peaceful "outdoor" classroom.

Dawn

Boy I can't believe that it is September once again. It seems like just yesterday we were starting our summer program. For those that don't know me my name is Polly. I've worked at Unity for over 20 years now. I'm kind of a "jack of all trades". Most of the kids know me as the purple bus driver. You might want to remind your kids "I don't sleep on the bus, I just drive it." I have two Older siblings that both live down in the L.A. area. I like to visit them but would not want to live there. I also have a 5-year-old Nephew, Tyler. He started Kindergarten just last week. How they grow up so fast. I have both my Dad and Mom that live here in Eugene. When I'm not at School I have many interests. I love to garden, read and travel. My garden is in full bloom right now and I'm very happy. This coming year is an exciting one because my Dad and I are going to Japan in April. I'm super excited about it. We just got our reading list last week. I can't wait to dive into all these books. I look forward to meeting all the new families and keeping up with the old ones.

Here's to another great year,

Polly

Hello, my name is Casey Welch. I have been working in childcare since 2006 and graduated from the University of Oregon in December 2011.

At Unity I worked as a support staff and then as an assistant when needed throughout the school year. Originally, I was hired while I was 6 months pregnant and then I took a maternity leave of 10 months before returning to work at Unity.

I am excited to be back in the classroom and assisting as our students' explore and learn through play. I enjoy spending time with my family, and making crafts and spending time outside playing with my son.

I look forward to meeting all of you this school year,

Casey

Hi my name is Lindsey, and I have lived in Eugene for 27 years. I moved to Florida for about 2 years and graduated and then came back to Oregon with an Associates of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. I have worked in childcare for the last 7 years. I love to be outdoors, read, shop, and hangout with my family and friends. I have a beagle and her name is Peanut. She is 8 years old and I have had her since she was 2.

I hope to meet you all during this school year,

Lindsey

COOK

My name is Terri have been with Unity School for two years now. I have worked in the Ladybug room and as a break person. These experiences have given me the chance to get to know many of the children here. This summer I began my work as the cook. I enjoy making good healthy meals for the children. I love it when I go into a classroom to make sure they have enough to eat and I am welcomed by their friendly smiles, and they tell me the food is yummy. Knowing they enjoy the food makes me happy, and I am glad to be a part of the Unity team.

Hope you all have a great school year,

Terri

JANITOR

Hello everyone! I am Ryan Carlos from Eugene, currently working as the school janitor / maintenance. I am also working as a mechanic in an auto dealership in Eugene and still enjoy my job here. Everyone has been helpful and understanding during my employment here at Unity, and I am very thankful that I am a part of the Unity School team. It is my pleasure working with you all, and keeping everything clean and safe for all of the children who attend Unity.

Thank you and welcome!

Ryan



Dear Families,

Happy September and welcome to the new school year! I thought it would be nice if I actually introduced myself to all of you. My name is Pammie, and I am the morning Lead Teacher in the Butterfly class.

Some of you already know me, but I'm not sure if you all know that I am the teacher that sends out the fun-filled Scholastic Book orders each month!

I have a huge passion (or obsession if you really want to know the truth) for children's literature, and have had a LOT of fun, sharing this passion with the children here at Unity.

For the past several years, I have been working hard to create quality teacher and classroom library here at Unity, and have collected over 1000 books in the process! Most of this has happened because of YOU! When families order books from Scholastic, our school gains Bonus Points, which in turn, allows us to get books for FREE! Year before last, I set my goals on building a wonderful Teacher's Lending Library where teachers can check books out to use in their circle times. This past year, I was able to revamp our Children's Classroom Bookshelf library. I am still working on it!!!! "This" year, my goal is to create Learning Kits, to add to our library. This means that I will be focusing on using our bonus points to purchase books, CD's, and other materials by themes that the teachers can use in their classrooms while focusing on a particular unit!

I hope that this note was helpful in understanding how grateful we are for your continued support each month when looking for and buying books for your children and how it has helped Unity build a wonderful library for your children and teachers to enjoy!

If you have never had the opportunity to check this out, this is how it works. Each month, I will put Scholastic catalogs in your family's mailboxes. There will be a little personal note attached, with our special "code" to order, as well as a "Date Due". If you choose to purchase books, you can either use the paper order forms, with a check (NO CASH PLEASE) made out to Scholastic, which you can then put in the little box on the front counter, OR you can do it all online! You just go to the Scholastic page, put in Unity School and use our code, and do all your shopping from your computer!

Please know that this is completely optional!!!! You are not at all obligated to order anything; I just want you all to know what it's about!

Again, welcome to the new school year! If you have any questions regarding Scholastic, please let me know, as I would love to chat with you about it!

Happy Reading,
Pammie

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Closed For Holiday	2	3	4	5 Tuition Due
8	9	10	11	12
15 Overuse Fees Due	16	17	18	19
22 Updated forms are Due	23	24	25 Schedule Changes Due	26
29	30			