

APRIL 2015

Unity School



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PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Unity Families,

April showers are sure to bring some stunning May flowers! Its this time of year we start looking forward to parent teacher conferences. The teachers have been working hard throughout the year compiling information to present to you about your wonderful children. Each class will be posting sign up sheets, as their conference dates get closer.

With the weather we have been having for the past couple months, it feels like we have been into spring for some time! April is a perfect month to celebrate our Earth. Please mark your calendars for our annual Earth Day celebration on Wednesday April 22nd (more info to come). There will be nature-based activities in classrooms, lots of activity in the garden (weather permitting), and we will also have a plant sale to replenish your home gardens. If you have plants you would like to donate to our sale, please let Dawn or Susanne know as we will be taking plant donations anytime between now and April 21st. We encourage you to take some time to celebrate the Earth with us.

Unity School will be working on some garden and building maintenance over the next few months and we would love your support! If you are someone who likes to get your hands dirty, please keep an eye out for volunteer days; we appreciate any extra help.

We encourage adult help only during most workdays, as the projects are often too difficult for our younger helpers.

Otter families, summer will be upon us before you know it. We want to remind you that Unity School will be offering our annual camp-out again this year. Please mark your calendars for Wed. Aug. 12th-14th if your Otter child would like to join the fun! The camp is a 2-night, 3-day adventure at Clark Creek Campground with 4 Unity staff members. There will be lots more information and a sign up sheet, as we get closer to the summer.

Thanks for being a part of our growing Unity community!

Susanne & Chris

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PANDA CLASS

Happy Spring Panda Families!

March was a fun month for us! Our kiddos are very interested in transportation, and we spent the first part of the month exploring things with wheels. We rearranged the classroom to hold shelves full of trucks and cars, fire trucks and police cars, and even school buses. We built train tracks, and practiced negotiating, turn taking and sharing fair amounts of trains. We rode tricycles outside and even had fun rolling spare tires across the bark chips and down slides. The kids quickly realized that wheels are shaped like circles, so we finished the month exploring the shapes all around us. We painted with plastic shapes, went on shape hunts around the playground, made shape collages with glue, and played with a variety of shape toys in the classroom. The kids are very excited to notice new and familiar shapes around them.

Again, we appreciate you using your best judgment in regards to your child's health. We are hoping these winter bugs leave us soon, but until then, please remember our 24 hour policy - your child needs to be fever (100°+)/vomit free for a full 24 hours before they can return to school. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Do you know about our parent board located near the water fountain in our classroom? The

board holds our planning sheets for each day, which are filled out throughout our day (not in advance), as well as, our daily schedule and a bi-weekly web of information produced by the children with



the help of books, toys and teachers. Next to the parent board is a packet of information about "High Scope", the philosophy behind our teaching methods here at Unity School. Feel free to flip through it, or even ask us, Chris or Susanne for a copy to take home.

Thanks

Cherri & Celia

CATERPILLAR CLASS

Hello Caterpillar Families!

Spring has brought us some wonderful weather. Our kids have been enjoying playing outside in both the warm sunshine and our Oregon rain. We have been noticing weather a lot and it became quite the interest in March. We even made weather signs!

The Caterpillars have also shown a great deal of interest in life science. We have been learning and exploring about



animals, life cycles, ocean and pond life, farm life, and elements of the Earth.

This month we have a field trip to the Science Factory to check out their space exhibit! The field trip is planned for Friday, April 17th. The cost is \$5.00 per person, which should be paid to the office ahead of time. We will be leaving at 9:15, so please have your child here by 9:00 on that day. We welcome parent/grand parent volunteers, and they can ride the bus if there is space. If your child does not usually come on Fridays, please make arrangements with the office for your child to be counted in our numbers that day, or plan to stay for the field trip with them.

Just a few reminders:

- Please remember to check our parent board daily. We put a lot of important information there for you.
- Please call A.S.A.P if your child is out sick for the day.
- Field trip, \$5, Friday, April 17th

Your Caterpillar Teachers,
Tara, Jessica & Mandolin

LADYBUG CLASS

Spring is here everyone and it's so hard to believe it's already April. With April upon us it means that Parent/Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. Ladybug Conferences will be the second week of May; watch our classroom door for a sign up.

The Ladybugs have been so busy lately learning new things and practicing to be respectful, kind friends. In March, we learned about things that live Underground and we got to explode our own Volcanoes! Then we started building and sounding out words. We also wrote some stories together and cooked Whole wheat bread. We are very excited to continue exploring the world with your kiddos.

We have had four new friends join our room in the last month. Please give a huge welcome to Jacoby, Gemma, James and



Joaquin! We are eager to get to know them and build relationships with them. Please remind your children to be kind helpers while these new friends get comfortable in their new school. ***Also, remember to bring small items for naptime since our storage is limited and we want to keep everything clean and separated.*** Thanks to all of you who help keep our art file empty and for all of you who take home nap stuff and dirty clothes for washing... it helps us in the battle against germs!

We hope you have a wonderful Spring!

Love, your Ladybug Teachers

Dorothy, Michelle and Mandolin (and all of the support staff that help with breaks, gardening and much more!)

BUTTERFLY CLASS

March was a great month in the Butterfly classroom. We had a great field trip to Crescent Park Retirement Community with the Otter's on St. Patrick's Day. We made necklaces, went on a shamrock hunt and played with a parachute. The kids had a blast!! We hope we

can return for another field trip before the year's end.

The Butterfly's explored the weather and rainbows this month. It was amazing to see how much they could recall about tornados or that rainbows are made up of water and light. Pammie and Cassie keep saying, "These kiddos are so ready for kindergarten!" They made beautiful art during this unit as well.



We can't wait to see where April takes us. We will continue to work on kindergarten readiness, communication skills, art, science, math and reading Magic Tree House Books.

Just a few reminders:

- Please make sure your child has a "full" set of weather appropriate clothes in their cubby at all times, including socks and undies.
- Coats and rain boots are still needed, so please be sure to bring them every day.
- Just inside our classroom door, to the left, is our "Parent Board". On it, you will find the weekly WEB and the planning sheets that tell you what we've done at school each day. Please check it out as the information can create great "On the way home" conversations.

We hope you are all having a great spring so far!
Thank you for sharing your greatest gifts with us.

Hugs and smiles,
Pammie & Cassie

OTTER & OTTER PUPS

Dear Otter and Otter-pup families,

Yay! Spring is finally here!! We hope everyone is feeling as excited about the spring changes with the warmer weather and growing plants as we are.

March was an exciting month with many field trips. We got to plant trees with Mason Finn's dad on March 13th. The kiddos had a lot of fun and also learned what trees need in order to grow well. They also learned of different types of trees and how to identify them. During spring break, we went to gymnastics at Kipsters, which was loads of fun! Hopefully they all went home and were nice and calm for the night. We also went to the Springfield Library to learn about the Oregon Coast Aquarium and we also did community service at Grassroots Garden. Thank you for letting your children join us and participate in community service activities! It is so good for them to learn that they can help others at their young age and hopefully they enjoy it.

In the classroom, we focused a lot on science activities in March. The Otter-pups made a volcano



and experimented with different recipes for making the volcano explode. We also did a cool explosion activity with Mentos and soda! We discussed cycles of life and changes in seasons. Hermoine, Our sweet little guinea pig, passed away in March. That brought some sadness to our class and conversations about death.

We will be having conferences towards the end of April, so be looking for a sign up sheet. Both kindergarten and school-age families are welcome to sign up.

Take care and please let us know if you have questions or comments. Also, please let us know if you have something you would like to share with the class- an activity, a lesson, or field trip!

Thanks!



APRIL 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2	3
6 TUITION DUE	7	8	9	10
13	14	15 OVERUSE FEES DUE	16	17 Caterpillar Science Factory
20 OTTER	21 Conference	22 	23 Week	24 SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE
27 	28 PANDA	29 Conference	30 Week	