



January

# Unity School

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## PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and spent some quality time with family and friends. Thank you for all of the wonderful 'Wish Tree' gifts- we really appreciate them! All of the classes are having a blast with the new items!

What a wonderful turn out we had for the winter celebration! Thanks to all the families who came and spent the evening with us. What an amazing job the children did on their performances and the yummy treats they made for the event were scrumptious!

We want to take a moment and acknowledge the fabulous staff we have at Unity School! We have a tremendous team of teachers who are caring, creative, encouraging, supportive, and committed to your children and to Unity School. The staff has done a remarkable job learning and implementing more High/Scope aspects, utilizing our garden space, volunteering for Pet Care on the weekends, and doing both field trips and community service projects with their classes! We are really proud that we have such an awesome team to guide your children and make their learning experiences the best they can be! Take a moment and thank a staff member, letting them know how they've done a super job for you lately!

We have a couple reminders we would like to bring to your attention. Remember, the pull-through driveway is a 5 min. drop off/pick up spot. If it takes a little longer than 5 min. for you and your child, please pull into a parking spot so we can keep traffic flowing. The other reminder is to provide lots of extra clothes for your child. During the fall and winter months, the weather is very unpredictable. It's helpful to have a good supply of warm items such as hats and gloves in your child's cubby. Unity encourages non-violent attire, so please avoid weapons or superhero clothing. We also would like to encourage child-friendly clothes and avoid clothing that uses adult logos or wording. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead,  
Susanne & Chris

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## PANDA CLASS

Hi Panda families, we hope you enjoyed the holidays!

We had such a fun December at Unity. We had our holiday party during the month and the kids did such a great job with their jingle bells. They seemed to really enjoy themselves, and we hope you did to!

We started the month of December by talking about the winter season, and finished the month talking about holidays and celebrations. We made a lot of artwork, and even painted and decorated a tree.

As we all know, this season brings a lot of sickness, and we thank you for using your best judgment in regards to keeping your child home. We realize that coughs and runny noses are prevalent, and we don't expect your child to stay home for every sniffle, but if they don't seem like themselves, it's generally best to keep them home. We are working hard to teach the children how to catch their coughs and sneezes in their elbows, as well as effectively blow their noses with a tissue (and not on sleeves). You can help us by trying to do the same at home.

We wish you all health and happiness in this New Year!  
Thanks, Cherri & Celia

## CATERPILLAR CLASS

Happy New Year Caterpillar families! Can you believe it is already 2015?

We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us for the Winter Celebration. The children worked hard preparing songs and gingerbread treats for all their family and friends. What a blast!

During the month of December we focused on feelings and forming relationships with friends. We learned how to recognize and label our own emotions, how to use our words during conflict, and some different techniques to calm ourselves when we are having a big emotion. Some of our favorite activities from this unit were: Practicing using a breathing ball, painting the emotions we felt while listening to different musical expressions, and role playing how to peacefully resolve conflicts.

We appreciate you keeping your children's cubbies well stocked with hats, mittens, and extra clothes as these colder months continue. It really helps your child experience the wonderful outdoors comfortably!



Keep an eye out for upcoming field trips and events! Important information will be posted on the parent information board located in cubby room. Please remember to check it regularly and if you have any questions feel free to ask us.

We are looking forward to learning and growing with your children in the New Year!

Teachers,  
Tara and Jessica

## LADYBUG CLASS

Happy New Year Ladybug families,

Thanks to all the families who made our winter carnival a huge success. We had so much fun and your children did a great job singing! We also want to thank all the families who donated items off the wishing tree. Your generosity is so appreciated and offers even more opportunity for fun and learning in the classroom.

January is going to be full of outer space, stars, and planets. When we're done learning all about our universe, we will try to plan a trip to the Science Factory to see the Planetarium show.

We are in for some cold weather coming up so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. We go outside in all kinds of weather every day. Please include warm coats and socks for your child to wear at school even if they aren't wearing them to school in the morning. If you are unable to supply these items please speak to Dot or Michelle. Thank you for helping us keep your child

comfortable while they are with us.



We are continuing the letter of the week this month as well as resuming our class reading the Magic Tree house series. If you would like more info or have any questions please speak to Dorothy or Michelle.

Your Ladybug teaching team,  
Michelle, Dorothy and Mandolin

## BUTTERFLY CLASS

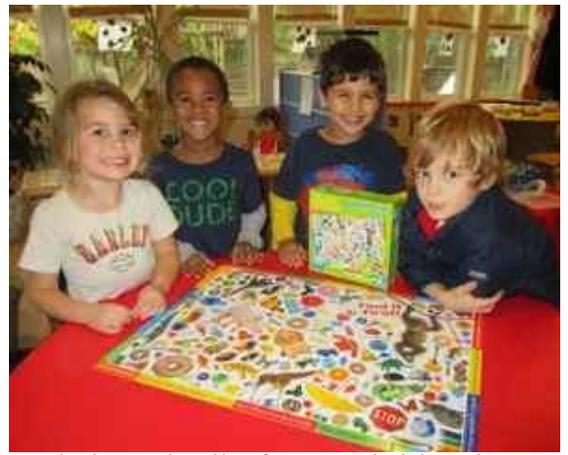
Hey baby its' cold outside!

Winter is finally here! With that being said, we have a few gentle reminders for you.

- Please remember to bring a warm coat, hat and mittens/gloves every day for your child, and rain boots and raincoats on rainy days. We go outside even when the weather is wet and cold. Thank you
- Your children (as you know) are growing so fast! This means that some of them are

outgrowing their rest blankets! There are small fleece blankets that you can find at most drug stores for around \$4.00, and they are a perfect size for growing Butterfly's.

- HELP!!!! We are in desperate need of socks! If you have extras, can you share with us? It would also be really helpful if all of the Butterfly's have a couple of pair in their cubbies. Children's feet get wet fast and socks are easy to lose when they are taken off.
- The biggest reminder of all is to tell you how much we love and cherish all of your children! We are so blessed to have them in our care every day! Thank you for sharing them with us!



We also want to send a big "THANK YOU" to all of the parents who took an ornament off our wish tree and brought the gifts in for the Butterfly classroom.

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season full of love, laughter and fond memories.

Until next month, hugs and smiles,

Pammie & Cassie

## OTTER PUPS & OTTERS

Dear Otter & Otter-pup families,

Hopefully everyone had a great holiday season! Thank you for all who were able to make it to our Winter Party. The Otters and Otter-pups worked really hard on their performances. And I know they were eager to eat the fudge that they helped make for the party!

For the winter break, we went on a few field trips. We went to Putters for mini-golf, saw a magic show at the Springfield Library, and went on a winter nature walk at Delta Ponds. What a great group of kiddos to take on outings! They all do such a fantastic job at following directions and have such fun attitudes.

The Otter-pups and Springfield Otters also got to go on a field trip to the Natural and Cultural Museum at the U of O. What a great trip! They have really expanded their exhibits there and have a lot of hands-on activities for kiddos to do. There were many exhibits on the Native American history of Oregon and also pre-historic and modern animals of the Pacific Northwest.

Our Otter-pups are eager and ready to learn, and they are a very motivated and determined group this year. They have set some great goals for them selves to reach this year. When we first asked the children what they would like to learn this year, they answered very enthusiastically that they would like to learn to read chapter books. As we have been working on sounds and letters, they have been showing a great understanding of what is going on. This shows that they will reach their ambitious goal at some point in the future... but they will probably not be reading chapter books by the end of kindergarten!



They do an excellent job of sounding out words and trying to read them. Your kindergarten child should be bringing a book home a few times a month from our reading lessons that they can read to you. Our most recent letter we have been working with is the letter "F". We have practiced listening for it by reading words in sentences and having the children clap when they hear the sound.

We wanted to let families know about our 'Odds and ends' shelf in the classroom. This is a shelf of items that can be used for crafts that would normally get thrown out in the trash or recycling. The students like to browse this shelf for items to create many different crafts. If you come across small items at home that you are going to get rid of (and that are clean) but could be used for unique craft projects, feel free to bring them to the Otter class. These items could be things like t.p. or paper towel tubes, yogurt containers, packaging peanuts, container lids, small boxes, and the list could go on!

One last note- we wanted to give you a friendly reminder to make sure to contact us if your child will not be at Unity, especially if we normally pick them up from school. Thank you and please don't hesitate to talk to us if you have any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,  
Teachers Jessica and Sarah

### Scholastic News!

Hi There! I hope you all had a lovely, fun-filled holiday season!

I just wanted to let you know that I am taking January off for scholastic book order, but I will begin again in February.

Because of "YOU" I have been able to build upon our classroom and teacher libraries! Thank you so much for your continued support, it helps a great deal.

Hugs and smiles,  
Pammie

# Happy New Year

# JANUARY 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 UNITY SCHOOL CLOSED	2
5 TUITION DUE	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15 OVERUSE FEES DUE	16
19	20	21	22	23 SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE 100 <sup>th</sup> School Day
26	27	28	29	30