

December
2015

Unity School Newsletter



580 N Garden Way ♦ Eugene, Or 97401

PH: (541) 484-0107 ♦ FAX: (541) 484-6944

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Happy winter, Unity families!

We want to tell you about the Winter Celebration coming up on December 11th from 6:45-7:45. This event will take place at Sheldon Community Center next to Sheldon High School. Each class performs a song or songs, classes will make yummy treats, and teachers will provide fun activities. Please note this event will not be at Unity School. Also, I want to reiterate that the doors will not open for this event until 6:45 to give teachers set up time. We hope to see you there!

You may have noticed a few new faces around Unity. We would like to welcome/introduce the new staff members that have joined our program. Valery Chandler started mid-October and is assisting Michelle in the LB room during the afternoon hours, Kelly May just started this week in the BF room as the all day Assistant, and Joshua Phillipps will be starting soon as our School-Age Teacher. Please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome them to Unity School.

Remember with the cooler temperatures you will want to provide your child with warm coats and extra layers of clothing. Gloves, hats, and warm boots help make your child's outside time more enjoyable. This time of year also brings runny noses and other sickness. Please remember to keep your child home if they are feeling under the weather so we don't spread illness around. Children may return to school 24 hours "after" their symptoms are gone (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.).

Our classroom Wishing Tree is posted in the lobby. The teachers post items they would like or need for their classrooms. If families are interested in donating an item, that would be wonderful and much appreciated!

Upcoming closure reminders: December 24th and 25^h & January 1st. Please notify us if your child will be absent during this time. Enjoy the holiday season.

Happy Holidays,
Susanne & Jessica

OFFICE MANAGER

Hello Unity Families,

I hope to see all of you at the Winter Festival watching your children perform. They all have been working so hard to learn what they will be doing on stage for you. There will be a lot of snacks, so you might want to have dinner before hand.

I want to let parents know, to keep an eye open for all of the fundraisers each class participates in for our community at this time of year. The kids get so excited when parents participate, then again when it is time to donate the items to their organization.

I also want to remind everyone we will be closed December 24 & 25, and January 1, 2016.



With the New Year coming I thought it would be a good time to share our policies about signing your child out and late payments:

- **Sign your child in and out each day.** It is an important record of who is here. This is required by law and is also used in billing and reports for the government. We also use the attendance sheet as a reference during fire drills and other emergencies to account for children at school.
- **Schedule changes must be turned in to the office by the 25th of the month to change your tuition for the following month. If this is not done I can charge for your normal monthly usage, so please get them into me before I make your child's invoice.** The same deadline applies if you are withdrawing your child from Unity; notification is required by the 25th to exempt you from the coming month's tuition. No adjustments or refunds are made for unused hours without this prior notice. (This includes illness, holidays and weather closings.)
- **Tuition must be paid in advance, due by the 5th of each month and overuse fee are due by the 15th.** (If you have unusual circumstances you can arrange for an alternate payment date. Arrangements must be made with the office in advance of the due date.) Due dates for all charges are printed on your bill and posted in the lobby. A late fee of \$5.00 will be charged for each school day the payment is late, and care will not be provided if payment is not received by the 15th. Fees are assessed as long as your account has an unpaid balance. Accounts more than 30 days overdue are charged interest at the rate of 10% per year and are assigned to a collection agency when 60 days have elapsed since the due date. A fee of \$25 will be charged for each returned check.
- If your child is not going to attend school on a regularly planned school day please call the office and let them know. We do a head count for activities and meal planning so this information is important.
- **Do not bring your child to school when s/he has a fever of 100° or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, a bad cold (especially non-clear nasal discharge), or is very irritable.** If your child

is not up to participating in normal activities, including outside time, he/she will do better at home. Children have a very difficult time handling a group situation when they do not feel well.

Children who have been ill may return when:

- They are free of fever, vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours.
- They have been treated with an antibiotic for 24 hours.
- They are able to participate comfortably in all usual activities.

I hope everyone has a fun safe and loving holiday season, and I want to wish everyone the best.

Virginia



PANDA CLASS

Hello Panda Families,

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving weekend and enjoyed time with friends and family. We all did.

Don't forget to check out the wishing tree in the lobby. We have put things up that we would love to add to our

classroom. If you have any questions about the items feel free to ask any of us.

The month of November was filled with animals for us. First we talked about farm animals and then we included all animals. We talked about where animals live what they eat and what they look like. We painted animal footprints - made spots like leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, giraffes and cows. We collected moss to put with the reptiles and leaves to "feed" to the dinosaurs. We will be taking a field trip to the Springfield Library on Thursday, December 10th from 10-11:30, You are welcome to join us if you would like, it's free.

Please remember to bring your child with a warm coat, hat and gloves or mittens. It is very cold and we still go outside. Having layers is always helpful too.

Please let us know if you will be out any time over the Holidays. This helps us staff our classroom.



Have a happy holiday,
Cherri, Celia & Cori

CATERPILLAR CLASS

Hello Caterpillar Families,

During the month of November we explored community helpers and transportation. Students worked together to put roads and railroads together, we learned about

community helper jobs through stories, games, and dress-up. The Caterpillars particularly liked the idea of playing chef and baker.

This month we will continue with cooking and baking since it is a main interest. We will also be webbing colors and shapes because this is another interest we have been noticing. We will be sorting and matching colors and shapes as well as identifying them.

Our class also has a huge interest in pets, cats in particular, so we will be collecting donations for pets in need during the month of December and delivering them to GreenHill on our field trip in January. We will be collecting food, toys, and other pet items (not just Cat). Look for a more detailed flier coming soon to your parent mailboxes.

Reminders:

- Please remember that we go outside in all weather so gloves, hats, thick coats, boots and at least one full set of close (pants, shirt, underpants and socks) for your child to change into will help keep them comfortable.
- Join us for our winter celebration Friday, December 11th. The caterpillars have been practicing a couple of adorable songs to perform.

Thank you,
Tara, Jessica, Tinisha,



LADYBUG CLASS

Hello everyone, what a great fall season we've had! The kids have been busy learning their letters and their shapes, practicing writing their names and learning how to be kind friends.

Another big thank you to everyone who helped with the Pumpkin Patch and the Harvest Party. Also we wanted to thank Rachel for coming and reading books to us! We love having parent volunteers in the classroom and on field trips.

We want to thank everyone for the great food drive in November. We were able to help four of our Unity families. We also had a great Stone Soup Day, thank you to everyone who brought yummy vegetables.

Remember to continue bringing weather appropriate clothes and boots with coats. Also remember our Unity Winter Party on December 11th at 6:45, at Sheldon Community Center. We hope to see everyone there; the kids have been working really hard practicing their songs!

Here's to a great winter from the Ladybug teachers,
Dorothy, Michelle, Mandolin and Valery

BUTTERFLY CLASS

Dear Butterfly Families:

Brrrr.....it sure has been cold! Seems as though we skipped fall and went straight into winter! With this being said, we are asking that you bring a heavy coat, rain coat and rain boots to school with your child every day (the rain gear can stay here), so that your children are nice and warm! We DO go outside during all types of weather, so please be sure to have their warm gear at school **every day**. Thank you!

Your children are having a BLAST learning the special songs that go along with each letter they are learning! It's been super fun teaching them, and listening to their beautiful singing voices! This is definitely a group of singers!



We hope you have noticed that we have been working on small group activities that have to do with the letter of the week as well. Your children are learning what the letters look and sound like, and pictures/words that go along with them! They are also working hard on their scissoring skills as well as writing their names, holding pencils correctly and of course lots and lots of social skills!

A NOTE FROM PAMMIE: One of my favorite parts of teaching is children's literature. I LOVE books! I work hard at nurturing a love of books and reading in the children who are in my life. Part of that includes teaching children how to care for books as they are using them! This is the most difficult part, however very rewarding! I have some great articles on teaching children how to care for books, which I will put in your mailboxes, to share with you how we are helping the children be careful and respectful to books, and gain a love of reading!

We are THRILLED beyond believe to have Erin back with us!!! Her surgery went well, and she is so happy to be back, as well as the children! We also have a lovely new Assistant Teacher, Kelly who will be supporting both Erin and myself! This is great news, and we hope that you will all take a moment to introduce yourselves and get to know her! She's a sweetie and knows a lot about young children, so she is a GREAT addition to our Butterfly Team!

This month the Butterflies will be learning about Bears, Winter and Traditions. It's going to be a fun month!

Some Gentle Reminders

- We REALLY need you to bring in a weather/size appropriate set of spare clothes to keep in your child's cubby!!! We do NOT have enough spare clothes to accommodate each child, should they have an accident or get wet playing outside. This includes socks and underpants. Thank you!!

- Please be sure to take your child's blankets home EVERY Friday (or end of their scheduled week) to be washed, and bring back the following week. This not only helps keep your child comfy during rest time, it helps to cut down on illnesses.
- Remember to check your child's art file at the end of each day. They all work so hard while here at school, and would LOVE to share their work with you! The files tend to get very full and crowded when they are not being checked on a regular basis.
- Every family at some point will be given a note/questionnaire for our Family Tree. It is not mandatory, however if you choose not to participate, it would be greatly appreciated if you would let us know, so that we can move on to the next family. We want to make sure we give each family an opportunity to be highlighted on the tree. Thank you!
- On the white desk as you walk in the BF room, there is a notebook where you can leave us (Pammie and Erin) notes about your child. This way if we don't connect personally, we will be able to know if there is something we need to know! This book is not meant for anything "personal", but things such as missing jackets; child didn't sleep well the night before, missing school for family, etc. If you have something important to chat about, please let us know either personally or leave a note with Virginia in the office and she will make sure it gets to us! Thank you!

Well, that's it for this month! We all hope that you and your families have a wonderful and safe holiday season! Thank you so much for sharing your greatest gifts with us! We all truly enjoy spending our days with your children, and are filled with love and joy as we watch them learn and grow each day!

Smiles and Hugs,
Pammie, Erin and Kelly

OTTER CLASS

Dear Otter families,

We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! Can you believe it is already holiday season? Be sure to let us know of any schedule changes for your child with vacations and days off school. You all should have gotten a form with all of the 'no school' days and winter break days coming up in the next few months. Please indicate which of those days your child will be at Unity and turn it in to the office. We will be planning some field trips or other fun activities for the winter break!



With the holiday season comes our annual Winter Holiday Party! Please join us on December 11th from 6:45-7:45 at the Sheldon Community Center. The Otters have been working on creating performances to share their talents with you. There will also be yummy treats and fun activities.

Sorry for the postponement of our Open House. We wanted it to be an opportunity for you to meet the new Otter Teacher - Joshua who will be starting Monday the 7th. We will be sure to set up a new Open House date ASAP.

One last note: please make sure your child brings a coat that is warm enough for the weather! Also, their names in their jackets, hats, gloves, etc. is very helpful for when they get misplaced.

Thanks for all of your support and for being apart of our Unity family. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Sincerely, Teachers Jessica and Sarah

COLOR ME



DECEMBER 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4 TUITION DUE
7	8	9	10 PANDA FIELD TRIP (Springfield Library)	11 WINTER CELEBRATION 6:45-7:45 PM
14	15	16 OVERUSE FEES DUE	17	18 SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE
21	22	23	24 UNITY CLOSED	25 UNITY CLOSED
28	29	30	31	JANUARY 1 UNITY CLOSED

COME ONE CAME ALL TO OUR WINTER CELEBRATION, IT'S ADORABLE, IT'S CUTE, IT'S FUNNY AND THERE ARE TREATS AND DRINKS.