

November

2015



Unity School

Newsletter

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Hello Unity Families!

Thank you for joining us for the Harvest Carnival! It was such a blast, and I think the adults enjoyed themselves as much (if not more than) the kids! We had a great turnout, lots of fabulous games, drawings, fun raffle baskets, and a ton of excitement!

Coming up soon is our Winter Celebration on Friday Dec. 11th from 6:45-7:45pm. This event will take place at Sheldon Community Center. Each class will perform a song or skit and each classroom will have activities for everyone to play! There will also be snacks. It's another perfect opportunity to meet others and have fun! We'll keep you posted, as we get closer to the date.

We love the fall, beautiful colors and sunny days here and there. The weather can change quickly, so please take a moment to check your child's cubby. Do they have rain gear, gloves & hat? What about an extra sweater or jacket? The temperature can vary this time of year and we want to make sure your child is as comfortable as possible during our outside play times.

Along with weather changes, this time of year is when we start to see runny noses, coughs, and fevers. Please keep a close eye on your child for any of these symptoms and be sure to keep them home to rest so we can minimize any spread of sickness. Children do need to be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school when they do come down sick. Thanks for keeping our school healthy!

We had a comment/suggestion from one of our parents that I wanted to address. The suggestion was that all staff park on the street to make more parent parking available. First off, thanks for your suggestion, as a general rule staff should not be parking in our lot due to this reason. We do have some exceptions, our openers/closers (for safety), staff with children, and administrative staff (emergency purposes). We realize our parking lot is small and do appreciate everyone working together to make it safe, efficient, and functional. If you have any other questions, comments, or suggestions, please fill out a comments form and place in the tuition/suggestion box. We appreciate your feedback!

Please mark your calendar in advance that Unity School will be closed for the Holidays November 26th & 27th. We will also be closed December 24th, 25th and January 1st. Check the lobby calendar each month for up to date information. If your child will not be in school due to planned vacations please let the office know as soon as possible so we can staff accordingly.

Happy November,
Susanne



PANDA CLASS

Hello again,

October was a fantastic month - we welcomed Clara into our class, as well as Coriana (Cori) who has returned to the Panda room as our assistant. Yay!!

With October we finally saw some real autumn weather - rain, wind, and falling leaves. The leaves in particular sparked the children's interest, so after we discussed different shapes around us, we moved on to the topic of autumn (we've been calling it "Fall"). We did a variety of art projects, including painting with fall colors, and making collages with tissue paper and contact paper.

Our field trip to Northern Lights went great! Time didn't allow us to ride the tractor, but the kids had a great time finding their pumpkins and gourds, getting to see the cows, feeding the goats, and playing on the hay Mayflower. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who joined us.

A few friendly reminders and upcoming dates to remember:

- The rainy season is here so please bring boots and a raincoat for your child. We have some extras, but not enough for every child.
- As we work with your child on toileting, please remember that "onsies" (buttons between the legs) can hinder children's ability to be self-sufficient in the bathroom.
- Please see our sign-up sheet if you haven't already (located outside our door) for the parent-teacher conferences. If the days or times do not fit your schedule, we are happy to try to accommodate your needs - please see Cherri or Celia. Conferences are November 9th - 13th.



- Look for details about our next field trip to Springfield Public Library for Sensory story time

Thank you,
Cherri, Celia & Cori

CATERPILLAR CLASS

Hello Caterpillar families!

Can you believe how quickly October flew by? We had a fun filled month with our field trip to Deterring Orchards, the Harvest Carnival, and our pajama party. We would like to give a special thanks to the families who were able to join us for these events!

We would also like to say "Thank you" to all of the families who were able to meet with us for Parent/Teacher conferences. We know it can be tough in our busy schedules to find time to chat. We enjoyed getting to know each one of you and were happy to have the chance to share goals for the upcoming year.

Last month the Caterpillars investigated many topics. We started learning about homes and families. We built different types of homes, made each other pretend breakfast, and took care of babies. We explored how homes look different around the world and how other families can be different from our own.

Our trip to the farm also spurred an interest in animals. We began researching various types of animal life and opened up a veterinarian's clinic in our dramatic play area.

Just a few reminders:

- Unity will be closed November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- It's our month for Pet Care! Please sign up on the Parent Information board.
- With the weather changing please keep an extra pair of clothes in your children's cubby as well as a warm coat, and hat & gloves.

Happy November,
Jessica, Tara, and Kevin



LADYBUG CLASS

Ladybug Families,

Our conferences are upon us. If you haven't already signed up for a spot please do so as soon as possible. Our sign up times are posted on the Ladybug Classroom door. If none of the times available work for you please see Dorothy or Michelle to correlate a time that works for all of us. During these conferences, we will be discussing goals for your child and possible challenges. We are also going to go over where to find information in the classroom about your child's day, our daily and weekly focuses and our schedule.

We have a new assistant teacher in the Ladybug room. Valerie Chandler started at the end of last

month and is a great new addition to our Ladybug family. Feel free to introduce yourself and say Hello if you see her in the classroom or playground.

We want to say thanks to all the parents who joined us for our field trip to the pumpkin patch! It was so fun and you made it even more exciting! We also want to thank all the families who joined us for the Harvest Carnival. Every year it seems we get more and more families and you are the reason for our success!

We have a "goal jar" that the class fills with pom-poms or puffballs when they work together and follow the classroom limits or schedule. The Ladybugs filled it before the end of October by really working hard and working as a team! We earned a party and the children voted on Pajama's and Popcorn! We are now refilling the jar and working toward our next party!

Now that November is upon us, we have been seeing typical fall weather. Please consider bringing a pair of rain boots, warm coat and a full set of clothes for your child to change into if needed. This will help keep them comfortable while here at school.

Thank you to the families who are remembering to leave backpacks at home. Our classroom is small and so is cubby space. Keeping backpacks and bulky items at home helps make room for everyone to hang a coat or find their boots.

Thank you also for keeping your child home if he or she isn't feeling well. Germs spread very quickly in a preschool environment and keeping your child home helps us all stay healthy.



If you have any questions please feel free to ask Dorothy or Michelle

Thank you
Dorothy, Michelle, Mandolin, and Valerie.

BUTTERFLY CLASS

Dear Butterfly Families,

Isn't it so great that we are finally in the full swing of fall? The teachers and children love it!!! One of the best parts about fall is the cooler, crisp weather, and rain! We are asking that you send your child to school with a jacket/sweater/rain coat and rain boots. Maybe hats and gloves too. We want to keep the children warm, dry and comfy! It's also a great time to bring in a new, weather appropriate set of spare clothes to keep in their cubbies, remembering to include a few pair of socks and underwear! There are still a few children who don't have any spare clothes, so please be sure to bring some in. Thank you so much!

As most of you know by now, Teacher Erin has been out, following a much needed surgery, and will most likely be out for a couple of more weeks. Our Garden Teacher Dawn, has been doing a lovely job filling in for her! If you haven't met Dawn yet, please be sure to introduce yourself so she knows who you are. Erin is doing really well, and is chomping at the bit to come back!!! She has to rest and heal a bit more and then she will be back in full swing! We sure do miss her!

Just as a quick reminder, if you don't see any of the teachers at drop off or pick up, and have a message for us, there is a note book (with butterflies on the cover) sitting on the white "teacher" desk in the Butterfly classroom. You can leave your message in there...it is checked daily! If it is something confidential about your child, please write it on a separate piece of paper, and give it to Virginia. She will gladly put it in my mailbox in the office. Thanks!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all of the parents who helped out on our first field trip of the year! Deterings Orchards was such a fun place to take the children to, and they all had a wonderful time! You parents helped to make it such a success!

The children have been having a great time exploring their class, building wonderful friendships, learning about fall, pumpkins, apples, and doing projects that are strengthening their academic skills (alphabet, numeral, scissoring, writing their names and so much more!). We have been learning some fun songs to go along with each letter of the alphabet...ask them if they will sing to you...it's pretty adorable!

We are excited to say, that we have started our "Family Tree", and two families have already been given the questionnaire and a request for pictures to hang on the tree. Each family will be highlighted throughout the year! This is completely optional, so if you are given the questionnaire and choose not to participate, just return it to one of the Butterfly Teachers, and we will move to the next family! We are going from the top of our roster to the bottom, so if you haven't been chosen yet, don't worry...you will be!

One last reminder! As you can see, our room is small and we have very little space for storing anything! We would really appreciate it if you would bring a **"small"** pillow and blanket for rest. These items need to fit into a 2-gallon bag, which we keep in two totes in the big closet. If we get bigger items it is very difficult to find space to keep them from touching others' things, which in turn shares germs. This is what we are trying to avoid. We also ask that you take home all nap items on Friday (or the end of your scheduled week) to be washed and returned the following week. Thank you very much for helping us out!

Pammie, Erin and Jessica LOVE spending our days with your children and we are having so much fun getting to know them each, one on one. What special gifts they are, and we are thrilled to have them in our class!

With Hugs and Smiles,
Pammie, Erin, Jessica and Dawn





OTTER CLASS

Dear Otter families,

Welcome to fall! It is so refreshing getting some cooler air and a little rain here and there. We have been reminding the Otters that they need to make sure to bring their coats for outside time because it is starting to cool down faster in the afternoon and they need a coat for rainy weather.

Thanks to all of those who were able to make it to our Harvest Carnival! The Otter class worked really hard to create decorations for the festivities. We were very impressed with the artistry that was happening in the room. The group this year is very creative and we have a talented group of kids who can draw well!

We will be having an Open House just for the Otter families coming up in the beginning of November. We haven't set a date quite yet but we will be sure to put information in your mailbox as soon as we know when it will be. The Open House is a great time for you to learn more about our after school program and to meet other families.

As you may already know, Jessica has accepted the open position as the Assistant Program Director. I have been working with the Otter class for over 7 years now and have been working with many of your children for several of those years. I will miss working directly with the kiddos tremendously but look forward to new opportunities. I have told the class that I will be right next door if they need anything. We will have the Open House after we have hired a new teacher for the Otter class so that you will have a chance to meet him/her.







Thanks for filling out and returning the family questionnaire I put in your box at the beginning of the year! Also, please send a family picture with your child so we can hang it up in the classroom.

Please, don't hesitate to let us know if you have any kind of questions or concerns!

Sincerely, Teachers Jessica and Sarah



NOVEMBER 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 	3	4 LADYBUG CONFERENCE	5 TUITION DUE	6 
9 	10	11 PANDA CONFERENCE	12 	13
16 OVERUSE FEES DUE	17 	18 BUTTERFLY CONFERENCE	19 	20
23	24	25 SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE	26 UNITY FOR	27 CLOSED HOLIDAY
30				