

September 2015

# Unity School Newsletter

Unity School's Alumni



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Unity friends, Welcome to a new year at Unity School! This is my 30th 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 the kitchen or the 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.

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

We are very proud that we were awarded 4 ★★★★★ this last year 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. All of the staff worked hard to achieve this recognition. Kudos to all!

I've been working in the administration of programs for children for over 39 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. I love to hike, canoe and travel with my pop-up camper. Now that I am working less I'm in my garden a lot, and doing more volunteering with the Lane County Master Gardeners.

I hope you'll stop in my office if there is any way I can be of help or just to say Hello! - I work a flex schedule so I'm not always here, but look for me in the second office on the left.

Have a GREAT year at Unity School.

Carol Barton  
Executive Director



## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

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 22<sup>th</sup> year at Unity School and I have enjoyed everyday working with such wonderful staff and families.

On a personal note I have a wonderful husband of 23 years along with three children Taylor, Zachary, and Megan. We have had big changes this past year. Taylor joined the Navy and is stationed in Washington State, Zachary graduated High School, and Megan started middle school. They all are growing up to fast! With all of our extra time we 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

## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Dear Parents and Friends of Unity School,

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you I will be moving on from Unity School. I have accepted a full time position with the Springfield School District teaching Library and Technology at Centennial Elementary School.

I have really enjoyed getting to know all of the families and children of Unity School. I have grown a lot professionally and I have loved working with the wonderful Unity teachers, directors and staff!

My best to all of you,

Chris Phillips

## **OFFICE MANAGER**

Hi everyone,

My name is Virginia Dare. I have been here at Unity for almost 3 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 wonderful people here at Unity. They have made working here a pleasurable experience and I love coming to work every day.

I have been married to a wonderful husband, Randy, for 22 years. We have raised too many kids and are finally enjoying having our house to ourselves with the exception of one very spoiled dog. We do however spend a lot of time with our kids and grandkids. We like traveling, hiking, camping, fishing, 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.

#### REMINDERS:

- Every September there is an annual registration fee that is due with tuition.
- ALL updated paperwork is due by the end of the month.
- Wow Wall - Is a place where parents can praise a staff member or show their appreciation for someone.
- Children are to be taken to their Teacher "Not Left in the Lobby or sent to classroom/outside without you," so the teacher knows the child is here.
- Parents "Not Children" are to sign in/out on the main sign in sheet (there is one for the children on the table in the hallway).
- Tuition is Due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and considered late after the 5<sup>th</sup>, and a late fee will be attached to the bill if paid after the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- If you have a question or concern, please talk to one of the office staff.

I hope you enjoy the new school year,

Virginia

## PANDA CLASS

Hi my name is Cherri Rose and I work n the Panda room in the morning. I have been at Unity for nine years now, but I also worked here for two years before my now 16 year old was born.

I have been married to my husband John for 24 years, and we have 2 girls, Ashley (16) and Allisyn (12). I have lived in Eugene my whole life, except for the 6 months John and I decided to sell everything and go to Alaska. It was a great adventure but this is home. I love the outdoors - camping, hiking, skiing, boating and softball. When I am not running my kids to dance or church activities and have some free time I like to read.

I like working with the two year olds because they change and grow so much from 2 to 3. It's fun to see their language develop, their self-help skills increase and learn to take turns and play together. It is also exciting when they make that transition into underwear! I'm looking forward to meeting our new Pandas and their families during the new year!

Cherri

Hi Unity Families!

My name is Celia Todd. I began my work at Unity in 2012 as a co-op student through Lane Community College Early Childhood Education Program. I soon became the afternoon teacher in the Panda classroom. I love working with the two year olds because I love watching the rapid growth the children experience, such as, learning to use words and having success at using the toilet. It's a very exciting age to me!

I moved to the Eugene area in 2007 from Astoria, Oregon. I grew up in the same neighbor hood where the "Goonies" House is located, and attended the School where "Kindergarten Cop" was filmed, Cool huh?

I have a four-year-old daughter, Penelope, who also attends Unity. Most of my free time is enjoyed with her at the park, baking or doing other kid-friendly things.

I am excited for this upcoming School year and all of the new families Coming to Unity.

Celia

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I began working at Unity as a substitute in 2012 and then took a break for Maternity leave. Coming this December it will be my second year hired back on, and I am so excited to explore another year of pre-school At Unity!!

I graduated from the University of Oregon in December of 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. I am planning to continue my education this coming summer "2016" with acceptance into the U of O teaching program. I will be studying to be an Elementary School Educator with potentially achieving my Master Degree sometime in 2018.

My son, Sollie, is two and half years old and attends Unity in our 2015-16 Panda class and will be moving up to the Caterpillar room soon with his birthday coming up. I'm currently working as an assistant teacher in the Panda room; however, when needed I am a support person and float around helping other classrooms as needed too.

I love working with children of all ages! Spending every day exploring and learning with them is something I consider to be extra special. I am blessed to be a part of the wonderful staffing team here at Unity.

Casey

## **CATERPILLAR CLASS**

I am the morning Caterpillar teacher; I have been at Unity for three years now. I love working with young children! It is amazing to be a part of a child's first experience in school and see the growth they make throughout the year. Outside of teaching I spend my time with my family. We enjoy movies, camping, spending time with extended family, and just staying home and spending time together. My daughter Skylei went to Unity School for 2 years and now she is off to kindergarten. I am looking forward to getting to know all of my new families this year, and hope you all have a good new school year.

Tara

Hello everyone! My name is Jessica and I am the afternoon teacher here in the Caterpillar classroom. I am very excited to meet all the new families joining our classroom this year and want to welcome back the families that I have met before.

This will be my second year teaching here at Unity School. After graduating with a degree in Early Childhood Education, I did my internship here. I fell in love with Unity and decided to stay! I have been working in the childcare field for over 10 years as a part of a community parent education program sponsored by LCC, and look forward to continuing working in this field for many years to come.

I have lived in Oregon my whole life and really love the Eugene/Springfield area and just always end up coming back! In my free time I enjoy reading, and some of my favorite authors are John Steinbeck and Neil Gaiman. I also love singing musical theater, opera, and spending time with my family and friends.

Jessica

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Hi! I'm Kevin and I have been at Unity a lot throughout my life. I attended Unity as a child, and I started working here right after high school for a few years. Now I am back and so happy to be here again.

As a child I was bullied quite a bit, and it was at Unity where I learned acceptance and learned how to be accepting of others. To me, that is one of the most important things that I can give the children: to be accepting of the children, while teaching them to do the same. That's the reason I came back to work at Unity and I want to stay here for a long time. What an honor I have gotten in my life to be in the Unity family again.

Kevin

## **LADYBUG CLASS**

Hello friends, my name is Dorothy and I have been teaching preschool for over ten years. I earned my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education in June of 2007, completed two years of Elementary Education courses, and add to my training portfolio every year. I have been a Ladybug teacher for more than five years and love the combined age group. We are able to explore everything from their first handwriting all the way to early reading!

I got married to a wonderful man named Jeff, on August 22, of this year, so my name looks different under my picture in the hallway. My daughter, Amber, is a graduate of Unity's program. She is starting middle school... so I might need extra smiles this year. We all enjoy reading, drawing and spending time outdoors.

I hope this is a wonderful school year with new adventures and memories to last a lifetime. Thank you for sharing your cherished children with us and for being wonderful families. Unity is a special community and we wouldn't be the same without you!

Dorothy

My name is Michelle Naggiar and I am a teacher in the Ladybug classroom. I have been with Unity for five years. Before I began work as a preschool teacher, I was a lead coordinator in the Test Department at Hynix. When Hynix shut down, I went back to school and acquired an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Lane Community College. I live in Springfield with my two children and two cats. I enjoy going to the movies and going to concerts. I love all kinds of music ranging from bluegrass to punk rock. I can't carry a tune but still sing nearly every day in the classroom or even in the grocery store. If you hear someone walking around the school singing it's probably me. I also enjoy traveling and have been to Asia, the Caribbean, and all through Europe twice. I have been to over 30 of the states including Alaska and my goal is to see all 50 of the states eventually. I look forward to sharing my year with the Ladybugs and learning all about their favorite things and their families.

Michelle

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My name is Mandolin Bales, and I am a Ladybug teacher here at Unity. I grew up in a small town in Nevada and moved up here to Oregon about seven years ago. I graduated from Western Nevada College with my Associate's in Early Childhood Education. I have worked with children since middle school and have such a passion for my job. In my spare time I love reading, going to concerts and Broadway Plays. I look forward to all of the years I will spend teaching.

Mandolin

## **BUTTERFLY CLASS**

Dear Butterfly Families:

WELCOME to the Butterfly Class! We are so excited that you are here with us, and are looking forward to spending this year with your little ones!

All of our new families should have received our "Butterfly Class Parent Handbook," which talks about pretty much everything you need to know about being a Butterfly! If you have not received your copy, please let us know and we will make sure one gets put in your family mailbox in the lobby! If you have any questions after reading it, please feel free to chat with us!

Because we want your child (and you) to feel comfortable, safe and "at home" in our class, it is important for you (parents and guardians) and us (teachers) to keep an open line of communication at all times. If for some reason we miss each other (teachers and parents) throughout the day, we will have a generic "Parent/Teacher Communication Log", on the white teacher desk in our room.

This "log" will only be for information that is important for us to know on a day to day basis, such as bad nights sleep the night before, woke up not feeling well but no fever, going out of town and will miss some days, etc.. It is NOT for anything personal or confidential. If you have information of this type, please leave a note with Virginia and she will put it in our office mailbox. We hope to be able to connect with each of you daily, but as you all know, sometimes this is not possible!

Well, again, WELCOME to Butterfly Land! This is going to be a GREAT year, and we look forward to getting to know all of you, and are super excited to have you as part of our Butterfly community!

The Butterfly Teaching Team

Hi! My name is Pam Rossetter (everyone calls me Pammie), and I have been a teacher at Unity for 9 years now! I have been teaching Preschool (predominately Pre-kindergarten) for 33 years this past July, and still love it!

I am married to an amazing man, Doug Rossetter, who is a Special Ed teacher at Hamlin Middle school in Springfield.

Doug and I moved to Eugene 9 years ago this August, and have loved every minute we've been here! This is our home, and we can't imagine living anywhere else! We have 4 chickens who bless us with delicious, organic eggs...these girls are our pets and each have a special place in our hearts.

About 4 years ago, we began a very lengthy process of trapping, fixing, and releasing feral cats in our neighborhood, and have successfully created a healthy and happy colony of 18 cats! We also have as "our" pets, 10 cats of our own, all through adoption/fostering. I know it sounds crazy and chaotic, but we all live together, in a clean, healthy and happy environment!

Doug and I love to explore our beautiful state, ride bikes on the river path, cook, garden and build upon our side business, as Young Living Essential Oil distributors!!! Our life is blessed beyond belief!

Oh! I am also the Scholastic Book "Librarian" for Unity School, so when you get notes/catalogs in your mailboxes, you will know who is sending them to you!

Smiles & Hugs,

Pammie  
(Butterfly Class Morning Lead Teacher)

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Hi my name is Erin Moore. I just finished my 2-year Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education at Lane Community College, and that is how I got started at Unity. I was able to do my internship here and after that was hired. Now I am working in the Butterfly room.

When I'm not working at Unity I enjoy going on hikes or bike rides. I also love baking, cooking, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Erin

## **OTTER CLASS**

I am excited to spend another year at Unity School. This will be my 9th year working various positions here. I started out as an assistant with the 3's and then 4's. After I received my Bachelor's of Education in Elementary Education I got to teach the kindergarten class here for several years and also lead the after-school program. I really enjoy getting to know new kiddos each year and also watching our 'old timers' grow throughout the years. It's a very comfortable home-like environment here at Unity School and I am glad to be apart of it with families like you!

In my free time I enjoy spending time in my garden and hanging out with my husband and our dog at home. I enjoy the outdoors and I ride my bicycle to work almost every day all year long. It's about a 6-mile ride

one way and I have been doing it for 7 years now! I also enjoy trying new vegetarian recipes and have recently been learning more about food preservation with my garden goods.

Have a great year!

Teacher Jessica Graham

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I'm Sarah; I work with Jessica and the Otter class. The kids are full of creativity and energy. We get to enjoy non- school day field trip adventures, and have lots of fun together. This past school year I had the privilege of seeing our group of Otter pups make leaps and bounds in the way of learning to read and write. We played Jenga; the pieces had words written on them. The kids would come up with their own sentences as the game was played!

I have been with Unity school for two years. I am grateful to spend time with so many wonderful children of all ages. I have the opportunity to watch them grow and develop in their own way. I see their progress as they learn how to maneuver the playground, write their name, and move forward into kindergarten and beyond.

I have been working with children since 1995 and over this time I have met many wonderful children and families. During these many years there have been times when I have had a child in my life from infancy all the way into the third grade, how great to see that much growth and change.

After high school I completed a home study course in Child Development through International Correspondence School and received a diploma of completion in nine months. I also have a degree in Human Services from Lane Community College.

Sarah

## **SUPPORT STAFF**

Hi all. My name is Polly and I've been here at Unity for a very long time (23years). I'm kind of a "jack of all trades". They ask I do. When I'm not at Unity, I love to read, garden and Travel. I had the privilege to travel to Japan last spring to celebrate my birthday. My Dad and I got to visit a lot of the country. I think my favorite place was called Sado Island where we saw and got to participate in a drumming on the old styles drums. Some of the drums were over 500 years old. That was a once in a lifetime trip that I will remember forever. I look forward to meeting all my new friends and getting to continue seeing all my old friends. Here's to another great school year.

Polly

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My name is Dawn Sewell, and I am a senior support staff person and the garden teacher! I've worked in all of the classrooms and seen a lot of changes throughout the many years I have worked here and still believe we have the best school in Eugene! Feel free to visit the garden and take a tour, or help out on a Saturdays if you are in the area I will be happy to show you around.



I have a small family - my husband, Chez Ray, Daughter, Shine and her husband, Kyle, and a wonderful granddaughter, Annabella, who attends the Caterpillar class this year.

I look forward to meeting all of our new families and introducing our new children to our garden, so they can enjoy it as much as everyone else here at Unity.

Dawn,

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My name is Terri. I have worked At Unity School for three years. I started as a teacher assistant and now work in the kitchen. This experience has given me the chance to get to know many of the children. Other than working here I also love to write stories. I am currently trying to publish my first novel, and am hoping that shortly it will be finished and ready to be put into stores. I love cooking good food for the children and I really love to see the smiling faces when I serve something they really like. It is wonderful being part of the Unity family. Hope you all have a great year.

Blessings

Terri

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Hello everyone!

I am Ryan Carlos from Springfield, currently working as the school custodian/maintenance. I am also working as a technician in an auto dealership in Eugene and I still enjoy my job here at Unity. I have been thankful for being part of the Unity School team, and everyone has been helpful and understanding. It is my pleasure to work with you all!

Ryan

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Hi my name is Lindsey, and I have been teaching preschool for 10 years. I went to school at Lane Community College and got my Associates of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, and graduated in 2005. I was born and raised here in Eugene. I did move to Florida for two years though. I have one pet and she is a beagle named peanut, and she is nine years old. I love to travel, read, be outdoors, shop and going to the movies.

Lindsey



# September 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3 <b>CLOSED STAFF TRAINING</b>	4 <b>CLOSED STAFF TRAINING</b>
7 <b>CLOSED LABOR DAY</b>	8	9 First day for Public schools	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 <b>MUNCHKIN RUN &amp; FOOD FRIDAY</b> Schedule Changes Due
28	29	30	OCT. 1	OCT. 2  <b>Smile Bus Will Be Here To Take Children Picture</b>