

MARCH

2016

# Unity School

## PROGRAM DIRECTORS

What a fantastic school year it has been so far! We love hearing the singing and giggles coming from all the classrooms. The children have been working and playing so hard, it is such a treat watching them grow and learn each day!

We had a great friendship celebration on February 12th. It's fun to have a day each year to dedicate to love and kindness. The creative cards and notes being shared between children were so sweet. It was a special day for everyone!

We want to thank all the families, friends, and staff who are donating tennis shoes for our fundraiser. We hope to collect 425 pairs of shoes and we are well on our way!

It's back, Unity School Kindergarten program! We are excited to let you know that we plan to provide a half-day Pre-K/Kindergarten class this fall. If you have a child who will be a kindergartner next fall, please join us on March 10th @ 5:30pm for our open house. Come ask questions and find out more details about what Unity has to offer.

We are starting to look ahead and plan for future events, one of which is Spring break. Please let us know if your child will be out during this week or if you need more care so we can staff accordingly. Josh has planned some exciting field trips for the Otter class. If you plan for your Otter child to be here for these trips please get that information into the office as soon as possible. Thanks!

Our annual Unity summer campout for our Otter classroom will be Wed. July 20th-22nd. I know that families will be looking at making summer plans soon, so mark your calendars now for this fun and exciting 3 day, 2 night adventure for your Otter child! Many more details will be posted, as we get closer to summer; please feel free to ask Josh, Jessica, or Susanne for information.

Just a reminder: don't forget to 'Spring forward' an hour on Sunday, March 13th.

Happy Spring,  
Susanne & Jessica

We will be having a plant sale this spring and we are looking for donations! Do you have too much of something growing in your yard/garden that you want to give away? Please dig them up and bring them to Unity so we can sell them at our annual plant sale! Please talk to Susanne or Jessica if you have questions. Thanks!!

## PANDA CLASS

Hello again!

We are so excited to see some green outside - spring is on its way, Yay!

As we all know, "two" is a very egocentric age, so we took the opportunity in early February to really focus on ourselves. Our web was "All About Me," where we discussed our bodies, our preferences, and our families. Our main focus was on our bodies, and what they do. For example, our feet have toes, wear socks, boots and shoes, and we can use them to run and jump outside, and to walk inside. We had fun tracing our bodies too.

In the second half of the month we expanded the unit to "I can do it," which focused on what our bodies can do, and what we can do all by ourselves. We have been practicing many self-help skills, such as rolling up our sleeves to wash hands, pulling our pants up and down in the bathroom, and putting on/taking off our own coats and shoes. You can help your child to learn that he/she "can do it" at home by finding opportunities for him/her to do things on their own too. Maybe you're going on a casual trip to the park. This may be an appropriate time for your child to practice putting his/her shoes on themselves (when you're not in a hurry). Ask your child if they know the "flip trick" with their coat.

The last week of February meant a lot of vacations, so we began discussing transportation and things that go.

March is the Panda's pet care month if you're available to come feed our bunnies and cat. Please sign up in the Panda room. We appreciate your help!

If you have any questions or concerns, please see Cherri or Celia.

Thanks!  
Cherri, Celia & Cori



## CATERPILLAR CLASS

Hello Caterpillar families,

It's hard to believe it's already March with spring just around the corner! The Caterpillars had an exciting and busy month of

February with the field trip to the National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics and our Friendship Day party. We would like to say a big thank you to our parent volunteers who were able to join us for those events.

We would also like to say thank you to all the families that helped with donations for our recycling project! The Caterpillars have been working hard by sorting and classifying the different materials that were collected. We have also been investigating different uses for these materials by using them in the construction area, making symbolic representations, and creating inventions.



Family and culture has been a topic that we began webbing in February and we will continue to explore throughout the month of March. We have read a variety of books and discussed how all families are different and unique. The Caterpillars have also been learning about music from around the world and have been creating their own music and dances. If you would like to come volunteer and share something about your family or traditions please talk with Jessica or Tara!

Wishing you a wonderful March,  
Jessica, Tara, and Kevin



## LADYBUG CLASS

Ladybug Families,

March is here and with it brings a lot of rain. Oregon weather often changes throughout the day so please continue to send weather appropriate clothing for your child.

We are continuing to remind families of the small storage area we have in our classroom. Please send only 1 blanket and 1 lovey with your child for rest and leave all personal items, such as umbrellas, toys, and jewelry at home. If you must bring a backpack or large bag, we are now stowing those in the block area of our classroom so children can more easily reach coats and shoes.

February was very eventful. We had so much fun at our friendship party and our field trip to NAAG. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the families who helped with these events. We continued studying a different letter each week as well as a number and shape of the month. As always, check the parent board in the classroom for current curriculum focus.

As spring approaches, we will be scheduling Parent/Teacher conferences. Please keep an eye out for sign up sheets with times and dates for our classroom.

Your children have been working very hard at creating great work to show you. Please take a minute each day to check your child's art file. If you would find it easier to take the work home in a bag, we would be happy to provide one for you.

As always, please speak with Dorothy or Michelle if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Dorothy, Michelle, and Mandolin.

## BUTTERFLY CLASS

Hi there Butterfly families and happy spring!!! What a beautiful time of the year it is and the weather is just perfect! We hope that you have all had a wonderful winter and are ready for all of the beauty the spring has to offer!



Making doggie biscuits

To those of you who were able to join us on our gymnastics field trip, thank you! What a great time the children had!!! Mr. G is an amazing teacher and has such respect for children and their varying abilities! Thank you also for helping your children create amazing 100 Days of School posters! The children are quite proud of their posters and are ready to take them home, so please feel free to take them down and hang them up in their rooms!

The Butterflies did a fun community service project last month! They made homemade doggy biscuits for the pups at Green Hill! They also made adorable cards for the animals! It was a very sweet and fun activity!

A quick reminder (again) to please make sure your children have at least one full set of weather appropriate clothes in their cubbies! We are still finding that some of our children don't have any spare clothes in case of accidents or getting wet while playing outside. Thanks so much for taking care of this!

We also need to remind **all** parents that it is vitally important for the safety of your children to walk them into the classroom and make contact with a teacher when dropping off your child in the morning. Although the children are getting older, and seek more independence, our first job is to make sure your children are kept safe here at school.

Your children are growing so fast and showing off all of their amazing knowledge and skills!!! We are pleased as punch each and every day as we witness them creating, writing, cutting, bonding with their peers, portraying pre-reading skills and becoming solid members of our Unity community! It's so fun to watch this transformation as they are getting closer and closer to entering kindergarten! We sure are blessed to be able to spend our days with them!

That's it for this month! Please keep a look out for upcoming information on a super fun field trip we will be taking on April first! Happy March everyone!

Hugs and Smiles,  
Pammie, Erin and Kelly

## OTTER CLASS

Dear Otter Families,

The Otters had their Friendship Day Party on February 12<sup>th</sup>. For the party the Otters hung up decorations, prepared cards and crafts for everyone in the class. During the party we did a craft for the students to take home, we made some popcorn, did a treasure hunt, and opened and read cards.

Students have been busy building forts during choice time and pushing their imaginations and creativity. Trivia has also been popular. We cover math, geography, biology, and even history! The Otters also enjoy spending time with Jellybean and Brownie (the guinea pigs). While the students engage with the guinea



Calling for Big Foot in the woods

pigs, it allows for the students to ask questions and learn more about other animals and the responsibilities associated with having pets.

**\*IMPORTANT\***

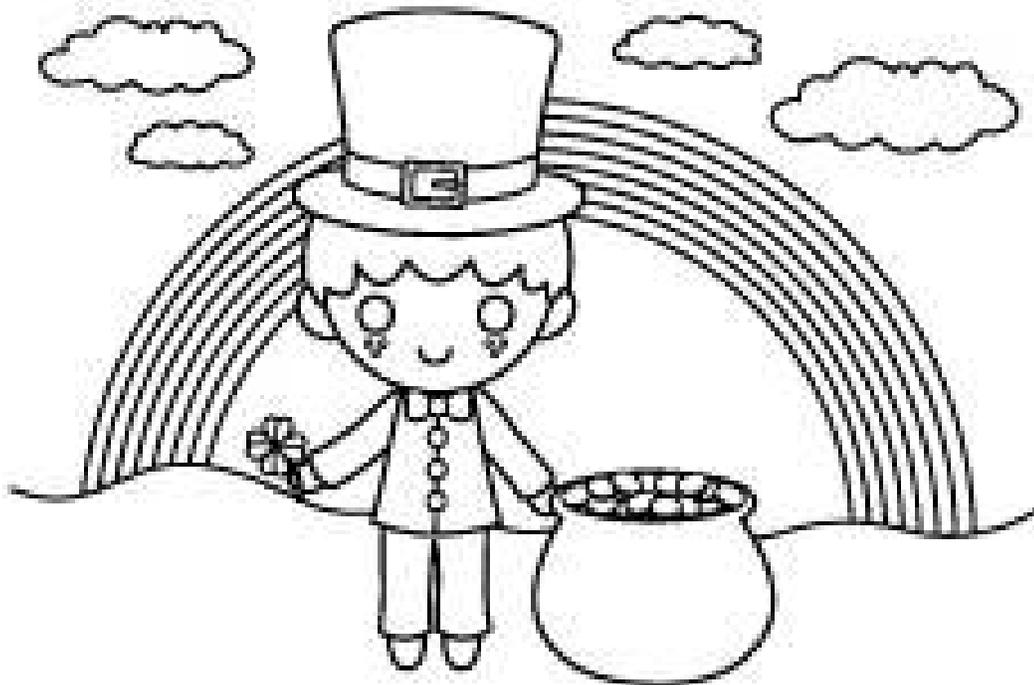
There are three field trips that will be happening over spring break! Two of these will be nature hikes. The first one will be a half a day and the second one will be a FULL day hike. The third field trip will be to the Cascades Raptor Center. We understand that spring break is an opportune time for families to go on a trip or spend time together, but it is strongly encouraged that as many students as possible attend these field trips. Activities, games, learning, and overall enjoyment are greatly increased with more participants. We also strongly encourage parents to sign up as chaperones and get outside and play with the Otters.

We have also enjoyed seeing the various ways our kids look out for each other. We had a new student start this month and a number of children worked to make him feel welcome. One student was his buddy for a day explaining classroom limits and making sure he knew where everything is.

At times some of the children have headaches and others will offer them blankets and stuffed animals to help make them feel better. We have a good group of Otters and we are proud of them!

Sincerely

Teachers Josh & Sarah



COLOR ME

# Involved Parents versus Lawnmower Parents — the Lingo!

A parent submission from [Parentfurther.com](http://Parentfurther.com)

When you're an involved, engaged parent, you can sometimes be accused of crossing the line —of being a "Helicopter" or "Lawn Mower" Parent. Yet, involved parents are very different than these other two types of parents. Lately, I've learned the differences between these types of parents. Here's a breakdown for you:

## Helicopter parents:

1. Pay too close attention to and orchestrate their kids' entire lives. They talk a lot—and give too much advice.
2. Hover over their kids so that their kids don't make any mistakes or suffer any pain from experience.
3. Raise kids who are overly dependent, neurotic and less open.

## Lawnmower Parents:

1. Mow down all obstacles they see in their child's path.
2. Smooth over any problem their child has.
3. Make sure their kids always look perfect (and if they aren't, they'll intervene and make it better right away).

## Involved Parents:

1. Know their kids well and stay connected to them. They listen a lot.
2. Give their kids space to grow up well while monitoring what's happening to them.

3. Allow their kids to make mistakes, suffer the consequences, and allow kids to solve their own problems.

When kids are young (age 5 and younger), it's important for parents to be with their kids most of the time (unless the kids are in child care) while the parents work. Kids need this constant contact in order to grow up well. As kids go to school, however, they need their parents' support and encouragement, but they also need the space to find their way, to figure out who they are, and to solve their own problems. It means that the parent is letting the child be in charge of his or her life—rather than the parent always being in charge.

Parents often get accused of being helicopter parents when their kids are between the ages of 5 and 18. These parents intervene too quickly. They get in the way of their kids' development. They end up raising "teacup kids"—kids who can easily shatter at the tiniest stress.

When kids go off to college, overbearing parents are often called "lawn mower parents" because they aren't close enough to hover but can mow down people through phone calls, e-mails, text messages, letters— and even showing up

when they get overly stressed about what's happening to their kids. College officials even have a name for lawn mower parents who go too far: "black hawk parents." These are parents who act unethically, such as writing a college paper for their student when the student runs out of time.

When you have a child who has special needs, an involved parent sometimes looks like a helicopter parent. Yet, parents of special needs kids know how important it is to advocate for their kids. They sometimes have to intervene in order for their kids to be safe, get the services they require, and to connect with trusted, caring adults who can support their kids as well. Special-needs kids who grow up well have parents who are very involved in their lives but who also give them the space to develop I their own way.

My kids are quick to say, "leave me alone" and "get your own life" and "why are you meddling in this?" when my parenting steps over the line. I'm happy when my kids point this out because it shows me that they're not teacup kids. They're kids who know what they need—and don't need—from me. They're kids who are finding their way, figuring out who they are and solving their problems while I support them on their journey.

# MARCH 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4  TUITION DUE
7	8	9	10  OPEN HOUSE (5:30-6:30)	11  Don't Forget To Spring Forward This Weekend!
14	15  OVERUSE FEES DUE	16	17	18
21  SPRING BREAK	22  SPRING BREAK	23  SPRING BREAK	24  SPRING BREAK	25  SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE
28	29	31	31	

Shoe Drive Is Still On Until The End Of The Month