

April 2017

Unity School



580 N. Garden Way * Eugene, OR 97401

PH: 541-484-0107 * Fax: 541-484-6944

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Unity Families,

April showers are sure to bring some stunning May flowers! It's this time of year we start looking forward to parent teacher conferences. The teachers have been working hard throughout the year at compiling information to present to you about your wonderful children. Each class will be posting sign up sheets, as their conference dates get closer.

April is a perfect time to celebrate our Earth. Please mark your calendars for our annual Earth Day celebration on Friday April 21st (more info to come). There will be nature-based activities in classrooms, lots of activity in the garden (weather permitting), and we will also have a plant sale to replenish your home gardens. If you have plants you would like to donate to our sale please let Jessica or Susanne know as we will be taking plant donations anytime between now and April 21st. We encourage you to take some time to celebrate the earth with us.

Unity School will be working on some garden and building maintenance over the next few months and we would love your support! If you are someone who likes to get your hands dirty please sign up to volunteer, as we *really* need extra help. Our first workday of the season will be Saturday, April 22nd (Earth Day.) Help us with tree planting, pulling weeds, and putting an addition on our play structure among other projects!

Otter families, summer will be upon us before you know it. We wanted to remind you that Unity School will be offering our annual camp-out again this year. Please mark your calendars for Wed. July 19th-21st if your Otter child would like to join the fun! The camp is a 2-night 3-day adventure at Clark Creek Campground with 4 unity staff members. There will be lots more information and a sign up sheet, as we get closer to the summer.

Thanks for being a part of our growing Unity community!

Susanne and Jessica



PANDA CLASS

Hi Panda Families,

We'd like to welcome Gabby, Leon, and Keahi to our class - we're happy to have you all!

We spent the month of March talking about "All About Me" and "Bodies". The kids shared things they do with friends and family, places they visit, foods they enjoy, etc. The topic evolved into bodies; what we wear, and what our bodies are capable of doing. The kids traced hands, we traced their bodies, and they colored them in. The kids loved walking through paint with bare feet as a group! We also explored what our bodies can do outside - like climb, slide, kick, throw, balance, hang and pump on the swings.

If you have any Unity clothes your child has borrowed please return them. We always welcome donations of clothes as well. The biggest need is usually underwear and pants, for both girls and boys, but anything is helpful.

Thanks,

Celia, Cherri & Briana

CATERPILLAR CLASS

Hello Caterpillar families,

Spring has sprung and we are all so excited to see more sunshine and clear weather! With the change in season the children have been noticing new plant life budding and more creatures emerging. We have been expanding on these observations and have begun a new web on life science.

Currently the children have been collecting worms and snails, creating habitats for them, learning on how to care for them, on documenting what they see. We will continue to develop these interests

through the month of April and see where the topic takes us!

The month of March was a busy! We got to ride the yellow bus on our field trip to the National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics, the bus ride was almost as much fun as our field trip. The children had a blast walking like bears, jumping on trampolines, and jumping off the "pirate ship" into the foam pit. Thank you to the parents who joined us - What fun! We also had an amazing visit from the Fire Marshall and her dog Casey.



We learned all about fire safety and what job a fire dog does.

During April we will also be collecting donations for a new "Home Center" dramatic play kit. Donations can include used items from around the home, such as, pots and pans, old spice bottles, or table clothes. There will be a donation bin located in the front hall. Keep your eyes peeled for more detailed information!

Gentle Reminders:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences April 24th-28th
- Bring in a Family Photo for our Photo Board
- Take home nap blankets to wash each Friday
- Check your child's art file weekly
- Please check for dirty clothes to take home daily. (This will help prevent the spread of illness and will keep our classroom environment clean ☺)

Happy Spring,

Jessica, Melissa, and Mandolin

LADYBUG CLASS

Hi Ladybug families,

Yea! It's spring, we're so happy to be seeing the flowers bloom and extra big puddles to jump in! We are excited to spend more time outside, hopefully in the sun! We are going to be spending more time in our wonderful garden as well. There are lots of spring time activities and adventures to be had!



The Ladybugs have been working on learning their letters. We have covered A-K and after spring break we will continue

onto letter L and so on. We also have been learning about new animals, like a koala and a kiwi bird.

The Ladybugs have been learning to work as a team, cooperate, make plans, and positively interact with each other. We are excited to try new art activities and outside activities this coming season.

As a friendly reminder, please remember to take nap stuff home at the end of each week, and please bring extra clothes for your kids in case they get wet and need a change!

Thank you,
From your Ladybug teachers

BUTTERFLY CLASS

Happy Spring! We are looking forward to the weather warming up. Please remember that we go outside every day - even when it's rainy, so please send a change of clothes with your child so they can remain comfortable at school. We have

been studying the letter "R" and exploring many new words that start with R. Keep an eye on the notice outside the classroom door for our next letter.

We will be going on another field trip soon. Notices will be placed in your parent mailbox as soon as we have all the details. If the fieldtrip falls on a day that your child isn't normally at school, please speak to Pammie or Michelle to make arrangements for them to go if that is your wish.

Thank you to Lauren, Gemma's mom, for volunteering to make stress relievers with the class. We welcome all parents or grand-parents to join us any time for crafts or just to play!



The beginning of May we will be scheduling spring conferences, please consider signing up. We can't wait to share all the new things your child has been learning!

Thanks,
Pammie, Michelle & Kelly

SEA TURTLE CLASS

Welcome back Sea Turtle Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful week off celebrating the arrival of spring.



This month we will be spending lots of time out in the garden with Teacher Dawn. Please be sure to bring rain clothing, boots, and extra clothes for your child. Kids love

Dawn. Please be sure to bring rain clothing, boots, and extra clothes for your child. Kids love

to play in the rain, jump in puddles, etc., and we want them to be warm and comfortable.

Also, this month we will really be practicing those much-needed skills for kindergarten, which is right around the corner for some of our kiddos. We will be spending more time practicing our writing and cutting skills.

Next month we will have conferences, so if you would like a chance to sit down and chat about your kiddo's progress be sure to sign-up for a conference. These are not mandatory and I know some of you have lots going on right now, so if a conference doesn't work for you that is ok. We can always connect in another way.

April is our month to help with weekend pet care. Please sign-up for a day on the weekend to help feed/care for Unity's pets.

Lastly, I am looking into a field trip to Kick City for later this month, so watch for more information in the next week.

Thanks,

Teacher Tara

OTTER CLASS

Hello from the Otters,

This month we said goodbye to Josh as he moves toward his new life adventure. We had a party celebrating his time with us. We had a special



treat with snack and played the Robot game, (a favorite in our class).

We're looking forward to the coming of spring, sun and warmer days. One day we enjoyed working in the garden a bit, and then we helped make another climbing

hill in the Panda yard. One afternoon some of us enjoyed just hanging out in the garden exploring. Then they got to be Junior Scientist, and gathered rocks to pound on each other to see them break exploding their colors and wonders.

Until our New Otter teacher starts, Ylva has been a part of our group joining us in our fun and learning experiences. We all hope you have a wonderful month.

Teachers, Sarah & Ylva

W	P	P	M	S	M	O	S	S	O	L	B	S	S
S	O	U	I	S	P	R	I	N	G	S	E	H	J
V	R	B	D	L	Y	D	A	Q	D	A	O	A	G
L	D	E	N	D	U	W	V	U	S	W	C	A	E
I	N	N	W	I	L	T	B	O	E	K	R	R	N
D	E	I	U	O	A	E	N	R	E	D	O	A	I
O	S	J	O	O	L	R	S	T	E	P	U	I	H
F	T	G	D	Y	R	F	S	N	D	N	O	N	S
F	K	Z	E	R	S	G	I	S	L	F	B	G	N
A	T	N	O	C	G	N	Y	H	U	I	L	F	U
D	U	B	A	R	G	P	P	A	C	C	R	O	S
J	I	L	E	M	A	Y	Y	K	L	R	O	P	G
N	I	E	R	E	H	T	A	E	W	P	A	R	A
L	N	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	C	D	M	C

APRIL	GREEN	RAIN
BASEBALL	JACKETS	RAINBOW
BLOSSOMS	JUNE	ROBIN
BUDS	LILACS	SEASON
CROCUS	MARCH	SHOWERS
DAFFODIL	MAY	SPRING
FLOWERS	NEST	SUNSHINE
GARDENING	PLAYGROUND	TULIP
GOLF	PUDDLE	WEATHER



Recycling & Garbage Storage

Americans generate trash at an astonishing rate of four pounds per day per person, which translates to 600,000 tons per day or 210 million tons per year! Electronic waste or "e-waste" (i.e., computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copiers, fax machines) alone is estimated to be 20-25 million tons per year globally. E-waste can contain many toxic elements and agents. While the most important way to save valuable resources is to use as few as possible in the first place, recycling and using recycled products is the next best step.

Benefits of Recycling

- Conserves natural resources like trees, metal, oil, and minerals for future generations
- Lessens habitat destruction as a result of deforestation. Recycling reduces need for raw materials and helps preserve our forest.
- Saves energy. A lot of energy is needed to make products from raw materials; recycling requires much less energy.
- Prevents emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, leading to cleaner air, cleaner water and a more stable climate.
- Reduces the need for landfills and incinerators.

21 ways to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

1. Recycle glass, paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastic.
2. Institute a recycling program that the children participate in and are responsible for. Children are never too young to learn to recycle.
3. Compost food scraps. Start a worm bin or other composting system. Check with your health consultant as to how and where this may be done according to your state childcare regulations.
4. Avoid using disposable plates, cups, and silverware.
5. Buy/sell used items (always check with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) website for product recalls on used toys and equipment). Be especially vigilant about looking for lead and choking hazards.
6. Substitute rechargeable batteries for throw-away batteries.
7. Use reusable bags for shopping.
8. Reduce junk mail by canceling duplicates and asking to be removed from unwanted mailing lists.
9. Donate used books and magazines to your local library, school, hospital or nursing home.
10. Donate unwanted toys and clothing to you local charity.
11. Replace paper napkins and towels with cloth napkins and towels. Cloth hand towels and towels for cleaning may be used for "single use" only to prevent the spread of communicable disease.
12. Purchase toilet paper made from recycle content.
13. Choose recycled office paper for printing.
14. Buy in bulk; use your own reusable containers.
15. Reuse food jars for storage. Be sure to wash and sanitize reusable food containers before using for food storage again.
16. Donate old computers to schools or non profits.
17. Pick up books, CDs, and DVDs from your local library or used bookstore.

18. Properly recycle all electronic products.
19. Support 'Manufacture Takeback Programs' - where manufacturers or retailers accept used electronic products back from their customers to recycle, reuse, or dispose of the product properly.
20. Return unused drugs to a pharmacy; do not flush remaining portions down the toilet.
21. Recycle items containing mercury (batteries, thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs) by taking them to a hazardous waste facility. Visit www.earth911.org to find a location near you.

Garbage Storage

Keep garbage areas clean. Follow these suggestions to avoid pests and to minimize odors.

- Take the trash out regularly' don't let trash pile up!
- Clean empty trash cans and remove trash from inside the building at the end of the day.
- Make sure indoor garbage containers have tight-fitting lids and plastic linings.
- Keep outdoor garbage containers, including composting bins, covered tightly. Ensure the lids fit snug to form a seal.
- Ensure all garbage areas are inaccessible to children.
- Keep garbage storage areas (large dumpsters/cans collected by trucks) at least 50 feet away from entranceways of the child care facility or play yard. These containers should be on pest-proof pavement such as concrete, that can be cleaned regularly. Sticky spilled liquids attract pests.
- Promptly recycle appropriate materials (glass, cardboard, plastic, paper and aluminum). Be sure to rinse and clean recyclables.

* Adapted from *integrated Pest Management: A Curriculum for Early care and Education Programs* (link at www.cehn.org/ehcc/resources).

Recycling Resources

- EPA: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/index.htm
- Eco Tips
www.globalstewards.org/ecotips.htm
- Freecycle
www.freecycle.org
- The Story of Stuff
www.storyofstuff.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: 202-543-4033, ext. 13
Email: info@ecohealthychildcare.org
Visit: www.cehn.org/ehcc

→ More Recycling resources can be found at: www.cehn.org/ehcc/resources

Eco-Healthy child care® (EHCC) is a science-based, award-winning national program that seeks to improve the environmental health of children by partnering with child care professionals to eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards found in child care facilities. Originally created by the Oregon Environmental Council in 2005, EHCC is now managed by Children's Environmental Health Network.

Eco-Healthy Child Care®
c/o Children's Environmental Health Network
110 Maryland Ave. NE Suite 402 | Washington, DC 20002
202.543.4033, ext.13



April 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5 Tuition Due	6	7
10	11	12	13	14 Overuse Fees Due
17	18	19	20	21 Earth Day
24	25 Schedule Changes Due	26	27	28 FOOD FRIDAY

Support Unity School

- Earth day Plant Sales
- [April 22, Work Day \(Volunteers Needed\)](#) talk to Jessica Graham
- Donation are always welcome for the remodel of the Caterpillar room
(we still need [LOTS](#) of help with the cost)