

# Unity School

October  
2017

## Newsletter

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### PROGRAM DIRECTORS

We are starting to feel the chill in the morning air. It's time to say good-bye to summer and welcome fall. We have had an excellent start to the new year, meeting new families and welcoming back returning Unity kids. There are still a few openings, especially in our 3 & 4-year-old classes so tell your friends and family about our fantastic program and support our growing community.

**Thank you families for all of your support with our Munchkin Run fundraiser!! It was a HUGE success!! The children had lots of fun AND we raised money to update the Panda classroom next summer! Check out the fundraising thermometer to find out where we are with our fundraising efforts.**

Unity has an ongoing fundraiser of wonderful Unity shirts, lanyards, and grocery bags. Not only is this a fundraiser for our school but it helps to get the word out around town about our wonderful program. eScript is another way for families to help fundraise, every time you shop at many local places, such as Market of Choice, Unity earns 5% which can add up fast! We appreciate your support.

Up and coming dates to mark on your calendar:

Parent conferences @ Unity. Information will be coming out soon about dates for our fall conferences.

Friday, October 6th, 9am-11:30am-- The Smile Bus will be here! This is Unity's version of school pictures. If the day isn't one of your scheduled attendance days, please feel free to bring your child during the time the Smile Bus will be here if you want a school picture of your child.

October 27th, 6:30-8:00--Unity School's annual Harvest Carnival! Come celebrate the fall with us and enjoy activities, food and fun!

Friendly reminders and info:

Please be respectful of our 5-minute parking spot (the drive-thru part of our driveway). We do understand that parking is not ideal, however, we are trying to accommodate all types of drop off/pick ups, so please--only use the drive-thru space if you plan on being quick. Your cooperation in keeping this space clear for those in a hurry is greatly appreciated. On the subject of parking, we do appreciate when you turn your ignition off in the parking lot. It keeps the air healthier for

everyone, especially our children.

Classrooms will be planning their field trips to local farms to collect pumpkins and have a fun tractor ride. Be on the lookout for dates and times for each classroom. Parents are always welcome, please let your teachers know if you are going along on this fun event!

Thank You all for your support and commitment to making Unity such a special and one of a kind program!

Our office is always open, stop by and say hi!

## PANDA CLASSROOM

Hi Panda Families!,

September really flew by, didn't it? The month of September is a month of getting used to being at Unity-meeting new kids, new adults, and new routines. Your children are all doing a fantastic job, and we love getting to know them and their interests.



Here's what we've been learning:

- How to sit at circle, listen to stories, sing with the group and identify and stay on our carpet squares.
- How to identify our nametags for meals, as well as how to serve our own food, and stay seated at the table while we eat.
- How to pull down/up pants for toileting (thank you for remembering to dress you child in button/zipper free pants).
- How to wash hands by rubbing them together with soap, rinsing thoroughly, and drying with a paper towel. You can help your child at home with the last step by allowing him/her to practice at home.
- How to take off shoes/boots and coats, as well as putting these items away.

As you can see, your kids are busy here at Unity! They are learning a lot, and having a lot of fun exploring their new class, friends and toys.

Two reminders:

1. October is our pet care month. Can you help us out by picking a day on the weekend to feed the bunnies and our very old cat?
2. We will be heading to the pumpkin patch this month, and will put information in you mailboxes soon.

Thanks,

Cherri, Celia & Briana

# CATERPILLAR CLASSROOM

Wow! The summer has gone and fall is here.

September seemed to have just flown by. Here in Caterpillar land we have gotten off to a great start by getting to know each other and learning about what we do at school. With fall here and winter just around the corner, we need parents to bring rain boots and raincoats for outside time and an extra pair of clothing. Here at Unity we play hard whether it be outside or inside and sometimes we'll need to change clothes after a funny messy experience. We ask that parents please label all of their children's clothing because it can be difficult for the teachers to remember what belongs to each child.



Coming up in October we have some fun and exciting events:

October 6<sup>th</sup> we have the Smile Bus coming. That means pictures folks! If you are interested in getting pictures of your child please check in with Virginia at the front desk for information on how to order photos.

October 11<sup>th</sup> the Caterpillars are going on our first field trip of the year to the pumpkin patch! We will be visiting Northern Lights Christmas Tree Farm. While there, we will get to ride on a tractor and see some farm animals. We will each get our own pumpkin to take home and get to play on a hay-flower climbing structure! We invite all parents that can to join us. If a parent chooses to join us on our field trip we ask that they please drive themselves because we have limited seating on our school bus. We would also like to ask that if you do join us that you please help ensure the safety of our field trip by keeping a close eye on your little one. If your child will be taking the school bus to the pumpkin patch we ask that you have your child here at Unity **no later than 8:30.** We will need time to make sure each child has used the bathroom and is ready to load the bus. The cost will be \$5 per child.

October 27<sup>th</sup> is our annual Harvest Carnival. Please come and join us for games and treats! The Caterpillars will be working on some fun decorations for the party.

Also keep an eye out in November we will be having parent-teacher conferences November 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign up sheet on the parent board in the Caterpillar classroom with times and dates. If you have any questions regarding this, please check in with Jessica or Melissa.

## Items to bring and be left at school.

- Rain Boots
- Rain Coat
- Extra clothing

**\*And don't forget to label everything!!!!**

Teachers Jessica, Melissa & Mandolin



## LADYBUG CLASSROOM

Welcome to the fall everyone!

We hope you are all enjoying the cool weather, the rain and the clean air as much as we are! It has been so great, so far this year, getting to know all of your smiling children. The Ladybugs have been very busy in the classroom, and we can't wait to see what the school year reveals.

In September, the Ladybugs explored their new classroom, began forming new friendships and developed our new classroom rules (see our 'Circle Time' /calendar board to see what those new rules are). We also learned about different kinds of families and what each family needs to be strong (love and acceptance). We learned new things about each new Ladybug friend and got to see what some of our friends looked like as babies. The ladybugs discussed all the things that a baby needs to thrive and we had a real baby visit our classroom. We also got to do some cooking projects including homemade applesauce for the letter 'A', banana bread for the letter 'B' and Oatmeal cookies for the letter 'C' (you have great little chefs!)

In October, we will be discovering different things that a farm has and what harvest is all about. The class will learn to make yummy food from the harvest and we will try to share our recipes with all of you! The pumpkin patch field trip is taking place on October. Please check your mailbox for information and the Ladybug Parent Board (behind our classroom door, next to the cubbies) for the parent-chaperone sign-up. Checking the Ladybug Parent Board on a regular basis is a great way for you to stay up to date with our class and be involved in your child's day.



Remember coats and boots, labeled with your child's name, in this rainy season and extra changes of warm clothes in case of accidents or splashes. We hope everyone has a great October!

Your Ladybug Team:

Dorothy, Jessica & Brittney

## BUTTERFLY CLASSROOM

Hi Butterfly Families! Happy FALL!!!!

What a beautiful and much need change in weather we've been having! We hope that you all had a wonderful summer and are as excited about fall as we are!

It has been such a treat getting to know your children this past month! They are already learning so much and bonding together in their new community of Butterfly Land!

If you haven't had the chance to meet all of us teachers in the Butterfly class, please take a moment when you are here dropping off or picking up to say hello and introduce yourselves. We'd love to meet all of you!

This month we will be devoting time to learn everything and anything we can about the fall season! If you have any fun books, songs or other "fall" related items you would like to share with our class, please check with Pammie or Michelle to set up a day and time to have you come and hang out with us! We love having parent volunteers!



A few gentle reminders:

1. Please have a FULL set of WEATHER appropriate clothing in your child's cubby at all times. We do go outside when it's raining, and sometimes potty accidents still happen. We are very limited on spare clothes, so having them in the cubbies is very helpful and more comfy for your children.
2. Remember to take your child's blankets home at the end of their scheduled week to be washed, then return on Monday, or their first day back the following week. We've had a LOT of blankets being left over the weekends. This will help keep the germs at bay AND make your child's rest time more cozy.
3. We are having our very first field trip of the year, on Tuesday, October 3rd. Please check your mailboxes, the wall outside our classroom AND the Parent Board for all of the information, and please be sure to mark your calendars at home and on your phones!

Well, that's about it for this month. Again, we are super excited to have your children in our class and are looking forward to an amazing year with your littles!!!

OH yeah! One more thing! This month we will begin the Family Tree project in our class. We will choose 2 families each month to be highlighted on our Family Tree. You will receive a questionnaire to fill out along with a request for pictures to hang on the tree.

This project is completely optional, so if you choose not to participate, please return the questionnaire to Pammie or Michelle, and we will pick another family for that spot. We hope you will enjoy this fun activity, as we all join together to find out more about each other and our family cultures!

Hugs and Smiles,

Pammie, Michelle, Kelly and Sarah

Munchkin Run pledges due by October 9<sup>th</sup>, and  
a big **THANK YOU** for all of your support  
and the children's hard work

## SEA TURTLE CLASSROOM



Hi, Sea Turtle families! Our first few weeks of school have been going great!

Our small group has been great for getting to know each other, and exploring our classroom.

So far we have focused on learning our classroom, and school limits, and we are beginning to learn about our new season, fall. We have also been learning about each others families. I've been encouraging the kids to draw pictures of their families to go on family board, and am asking parents to bring in a family photo or email one to Virginia.

Next month we will be taking our first field trip of the year! Originally we had planned to go with the Ladybugs, but with the increase in numbers we will be planning a trip on our own. Details on when will be given to parents soon. When we do go the trip will be from 9:00-11:30am. Please send your child in rain boots, and with a cloth grocery bag to carry their pumpkins.

Thanks,  
Kristin

## OTTER CLASSROOM

Hello from the Otters!

We're off to a good and busy start. We have a lot of new friends this year, and enjoy getting to know everyone!



We have been focusing on the new school year, and learning about each others families. We are encouraging each kid to draw a picture of their family to go on our family board. We are also asking that parents bring in a photo for our family board, or email one to Virginia.

It's been fun to see the artistic talent, and ingenuity of our Otter class. Each day we are impressed with the creative projects our students think of, and are more than happy to help them take their ideas, and figure out a plan to make them happen.

We look forward to the year ahead, and being a part of all the growing and learning that will happen.

Wednesdays are our garden day, and we will be working with Nicolae, our garden teacher, to harvest, plant, weed, and just simply enjoying our garden space.

We will be going to Johnson's farm to the pumpkin patch on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm; there will be a \$5 charge for each child, which include a hayride, pumpkin, and use of an apple slingshot. Please send a grocery sack to school with them to bring their pumpkin home in.

Kristin, and Sarah

# New! All About HighScope

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## What is the HighScope educational approach?

HighScope is an "active participatory learning" approach to educating children from birth to young adulthood. Developed in 1962 in Ypsilanti, Michigan, the HighScope approach is now used in tens of thousands of half- and full-day preschool, nursery schools, Head Start programs, and programs for children with special needs in the United States and around the world. Children and families from many racial, national, religious, and financial backgrounds participate in HighScope programs.

The HighScope approach blends the knowledge from research on child development and learning with practical teaching experience in the classroom and other educational settings. Long-term studies show the HighScope approach promotes the healthy development of children and provides long-lasting benefits throughout adulthood.

## What is HighScope's viewpoint about education?

Children's interest and choices are at the heart of HighScope programs. This approach to education is called "child-initiated Learning". We provide children with a wide variety of materials (books, toys, art supplies, equipment, and household objects) and plan experiences that build on their interests and expand their learning. We also encourage their early development

by observing, supporting, and extending what they do. We call this "intentional teaching".

The HighScope approach has been tested through more than 45 years of practical experience in classrooms and other settings in the United States and around the world. This approach provides teachers with a blueprint for organizing the classroom and playground; creating a consistent, predictable daily routine; and interacting with children in a warm and supportive manner. Every day, the program offers one-on-one adult attention promises children that they can choose interesting things to do and gives children a sense of control over themselves and their surroundings. In HighScope settings, we plan experiences for children that encourage independent thinking, initiative (the ability to make and then follow through on a plan), and creativity. Young children's capabilities develop quickly when they can act on their own ideas, use material freely, and exercise their imaginations. We also encourage curiosity, decision-making, cooperation, persistence (staying with their ideas), and problem solving. Children use these capabilities every day in the program and at home. Children also become familiar with basic ideas in reading and writing, math and science, and other areas that prepare them for starting school. Over time, they develop the necessary knowledge and skills they will carry into adulthood.

# October 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5 TUITION DUE	6 PICTURE DAY
9	10	11	12	13
16 OVERUSE FEES DUE	17	18	19	20
23	24	25 SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE	26	27 HARVEST CANIVAL <i>(everyone welcome)</i> 6:30PM - 8:00 PM
30	31			