

February

2018

Happy Friendship Day

Unity School

Newsletter

580 N. Garden Way ★ Eugene, Or 97401

PH: 541-484-0107 ★ Fax: 541-484-6944

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dear Unity Families,

2018 is here! We sure hope all Unity families have been staying warm and healthy during the start of the new year.

Our classrooms have been filling up over the past couple months, but we do have a few preschool spots available either full or part time so please tell your friends and family and you will receive a \$25 dollar credit for every family referral that continues with Unity for three or more months.

When you are in the building, please take a moment to enjoy some of the creative and unique projects your amazing children are a part of every day at Unity school--beautiful works of art are popping up throughout every classroom!

What a nice treat it has been to see parents, grandparents, and caregivers visiting their child's classroom for a special activity, presentation about their jobs, or playing fun games with the children. If you would like to come share some time in the classroom please feel free to check in with your child's teachers and plan a time that works best.

Here at Unity, we always celebrate love and kindness. This month, in particular, we encourage our families to participate in a friendship celebration on Wednesday, February 14th. Each classroom will be doing their own activities, so please check in with your child's teacher for more information. There will be time for the kids to exchange tokens of appreciation with each other and we encourage homemade crafts and cards. No treats, please!

Thanks for being a part of our ever-expanding community! As always, it is our pleasure to answer any questions you may have or just stop into our office and say "Hi".

Sincerely,
Susanne and Jessica

PANDA CLASS

Dear Panda Families,

The month of January we talked about the cold weather (It's cold) and colors and shapes.

We have been working on putting our coats on (the flip trick) by ourselves. If you don't know what the flip trick is, ask one of us and we will show you. Almost all of the Pandas can do this by themselves. Many of them are putting boots on without help and shoes with minimal help. They are learning so much!

We read the book "Mouse Paint" many times, which is a book about colors. We painted with the primary colors and mixed paints to make secondary colors. Check out our art display on the wall. We played with shape sorters, shape puzzles, magnets and blocks of different shapes.

We will be going on a field trip to the library for story time soon. Be looking on the parent board for exact time and day. We will also be Celebrating Friendship Day on Wednesday, February 14th. We will be having a sticker party that day. Everyone is welcome to bring stickers instead of cards to share with all their friends and teachers too.

Please work on washing hands with your child at home. There has been a lot of sickness going around and the best way to prevent spreading it is hand washing! Thank you for keeping your child home when they are sick!

Cherri, Celia & Briana



CATERPILLAR CLASS

So far 2018 has been awesome for the Caterpillars!

One thing Caterpillars have been enjoying this January is so many parent volunteers coming to our class to read stories, share fun food activities and teaching us new things. The Caterpillars have also started to do letter of the week. This has been a lot of fun discovering what items start with what letter. The Caterpillars also have been enjoying bringing in the bunnies and guinea pig to our classroom for visits.

A gentle reminder: with this rainy season we ask that parents please bring extra clothing for their children. We play hard and outside, rain or shine.

Coming up in February we have some fun and exciting events!

February 5th the Caterpillars are going to NAAG (National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics)!!!! The cost is \$6 per child which can be paid to Virginia at the office. We also need parents to sign a permission slip, which is posted in the Caterpillar classroom on the wall above the cubbies. All parents are welcome to join us. We do ask that if you are going to join us to please drive yourself as we have

very limited seating on the purple bus. If your child is riding the bus to NAAG, we ask that you have your child at Unity NO LATER than 9:00. We need to have enough time to have the children use the bathroom and load the bus.

Another date to remember is February 14th. That day we are celebrating Friendship Day and we'll get to do some fun arts and crafts that we can give to our friends or family.

If a parent or family member is interested in coming to the Caterpillar classroom to do an activity, read a story or just visit please check in with Melissa or Jessica to determine when would be a good time.



Reminders:

February 5th NAAG field trip

February 14 Friendship Day

Also, don't forget to bring extra clothing for you child

Thank you from the Caterpillar teachers

LADYBUG CLASS

Hello everyone,

We want to thank everyone who participated in our field trip to N.A.A.G for some fun gymnastics and tumbling. The kids learned some new techniques and had a great time moving their bodies! The next field trip will be to the Eugene Science Center (formerly Science Factory) on February 8th.

The Ladybug class has been very busy discovering community jobs like mail carriers, Office workers and safety officers. The kids took turns delivering mail within our class and writing letters to real family members (that we actually sent in the U.S.P.S). Also, the Ladybugs have been using the writing table more to form their names and letters. Way to go big kids!

We would like to welcome our new friends from the Caterpillar class! They have visited up till now and became official Ladybugs on February 1st. We now have more than ten Children! Exciting times. Last is a friendly reminder to take home artwork and nap stuff on Fridays and thank you to everyone who keeps bringing warm coats and boots for their kids!



Signing off till March...your Ladybug team.

BUTTERFLY CLASS

Butterfly Families,

What a whirlwind the month of January was! This month we went "back to the basics". We learned to follow direction during small group activities, about personal safety and the importance of following

limits to keep us safe during playtime and through reading books and stories. Your little Butterflies have been working so hard on everything from their basic skills to ready them for kindergarten, to practicing kindness, respect and caring for their friends, teachers and the outside world! We are so proud with how far they are coming! They're going to be ready for kindergarten before we know it!

We work really hard to keep our classroom clean and disinfected on a daily basis. Now that we are in the thick of cold and flu season, we are asking that everyone remembers to:

- Keep your children home if they are running a temperature of 100 degrees or over, they are vomiting, have diarrhea, major green colored runny nose or severe cough. This is not just to keep other children and teachers well, but it's also to help your child heal. Rest and lots of fluids are key ingredients in the healing process.
- Take your child's blankets home to wash, EVERY week at the end of their scheduled week, and remember to return them the following week. This not only helps to cut down on germs, but it also makes rest time much more comfy and cozy for your child.
- Make sure that your child ALWAYS has a FULL set of extra clothes in their cubbies. This includes sock and of course underwear. We also encourage you to bring your child a warm coat, rain coat and rain boots to leave at school if possible. The weather is so unpredictable, and we do go outside in all types of weather. We want all of our Butterflies to be warm and dry.

Thank you!!!

The "100 Days of School" party was a huge success! The posters were amazing and the kids were so excited to see them displayed throughout the hall and in our classroom! Thank you for helping your children create such amazing posters! What a special day it was!

On Wednesday, February 14th, we will be celebrating our friends with fun activities and a special snack. If your child would like, they can bring in small treats for all of the children in our class. This can be handmade cards, stickers, small toys, pencils, etc., but please remember NO food or candy. We will not be able to give those out. If you need ideas, please feel free to ask Pammie or Michelle. We will put a list of ALL of our Butterflies in your mailboxes, if your child chooses to write their names.

Look in your parent mailbox for information on upcoming field trips and spring conference information.

Well, that's it for this month. We hope that you all have a wonderful, safe and love-filled February! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for sharing your most precious gifts with us every day. We love spending our days with them, and growing right along side them!



Hugs and Love,

Pammie, Michelle, Sarah, Kelly and Polly

SEA TURTLES CLASS

Hello from the Sea Turtles,

January has been a great month of getting back into the routine! This month we spent time learning about weather, numbers, and animals. Our new EC Cares assistant, Zoey, has been doing great with getting to know everybody and we are happy to have her in our class! As I mentioned before, we will be starting an "All About

Me" board this month. I look forward to getting to know our families a little better through the questionnaire and photos you return. It's been great to see the friendship and bonds that have developed in-group and hope to strengthen these connections through learning about each other.

A couple reminders:

- * Please bring weather appropriate outerwear and spare clothes. We play outside in all weather, and some times get messy
- * Show & Tell is every Thursday. Please leave toys and personal items home on any other day.

I will be planning a class field trip in February, and will share details once I have them. As a final note, I wanted to mention that parent and family visitors are welcome to come for a visit. Also, if you or a member of your family has a skill or occupation they'd like to share with us, we would love to have you in to learn about it.

Thank you,
Kristin



We've also enjoyed and appreciated the extra efforts our kids are making to be helpful in the classroom, whether its getting things ready or helping out a friend.

With the cold wet weather the kids are great at keeping tabs on Cloudy the cat. He often comes to the door wanting to visit the kids and warm up.

If you have any questions about your children or their day please talk to Kristin or Sarah.

Thank you,
Kristin & Sarah



OTTER CLASS

Hello from the Otters,

We're off to a busy start as the new year begins. We've had some pretty cool inventions as our kids explore what they can create with cardboard tubes, boxes and anything else that looks fun to build with.

Our kids continue to have creative ideas for ways they want to make slime, too. It's a favorite in our room because it's colorful and gross at the same time!



Check out our new column! This Q & A will be created by our staff as a team- we will take questions you have about challenging situations with your child (please submit your question in our Dear Teacher box in front of Virginia's office) and come up with an answer together.

Dear Teacher,

Q.) I have a 4 year old and he seems to be having some jealousy issues with his 13-month-old sibling. The 4-year-old is very territorial of his possessions and even becomes aggressive if the little one (innocently) grabs one of his toys. Help!

A) What a challenging situation! 4-year-olds are at a stage where they are exerting their independence, developing empathy towards others by learning about feelings that everyone has, which includes learning how to share. 1-year-olds are exploring and learning about EVERYTHING through touching, mouthing and reaching for anything in sight. They have no idea that 'things' have significance and value to others.

Try to talk to your 4-year-old about the development of his sibling and how his little sibling just doesn't understand the idea of possessing something (at a time when there is no conflict going on.) At the same time, show value to your 4-year-olds feelings on the matter and create a space (up high) that the 1-year-old cannot access. Your 4-year-old can select his most prized possessions to keep in this safe space. There are many great children's books that you could read to your 4-year-old to learn how to deal with a younger sibling. Try, *Franklin and Harriet* by Paulette Burgeois or ask your librarian for other books like this. Aggression could also indicate his dissatisfaction for other matters regarding his young sibling. He may miss the 1:1 time he used to get with you. See if you can find time and support to give the children time alone with you individually. It can be hard for a 4-year-old to adjust to sharing a parent!

If your child is still having aggression issues, you may consider finding a therapist, one that specializes in play therapy to try to get your little guy to open up about what is really on his mind. Please let us know if you need a referral for a therapist!

Phonics Fact Sheet for Parents

Phonics is in the news! Here are some phonics-related facts and concepts that will help you understand the developing abilities of your preschool aged child:

Hearing the Sounds That Make Up Words

Phonics helps children in kindergarten, first, and second grade as they learn to read. As is true in many areas of academic learning, the ability to learn and use phonics in the early grades depends on skills and abilities children begin to develop before they enter grade school:

- Phonics involves the relationship between printed letter and the sounds they stand for. (The letter B corresponds to the sound /b/).
- To understand these letter-sound relationships, children first need to develop awareness of the sounds that make up words. This is called *phonological awareness*.
- Learning and using phonics depends on children's ability to hear *phonemes*, the very smallest sounds in words. Phonemes are represented in print by single letters (the letter t stands for the sound /t/) or, in some cases, by letter combinations (the letters sh stand for the sound /sh/; the letters ck stand for the sound /k/).

How Preschool Phonics Learning Begins: Rhyming, Alliteration, and Writing

- While preschoolers are not able to distinguish all the phonemes in the words they hear and say, they can hear and identify the ends of words that sound the same, for example, **dog, log, bog**. These are commonly known as *rhymes*. They are also able to distinguish the beginning phonemes of words that begin with the same sound, for example, **Tom Tit Tot**. These are called *alliterations*.
- As preschool children hear and say familiar nursery rhymes, pick out the rhyming words, and make up their own rhymes, they distinguish and purposefully play with word-ending sounds.
- As preschool children say, hear, and make up alliterations, they distinguish beginning letter sounds, a skill necessary for learning phonics.
- As preschool children begin to sound out and write letters in familiar words (saying /m/ as they write the letter M for MOM), they use phonics (letter-sound relationships) to help them spell.

Since experiences like these with rhyming, alliteration, and writing are a frequent part of our active learning preschool program, you can be assured that your child is getting the phonics-related activities she or he needs!

Mary Hohmann. ` Phonics Fact Sheet for Parents.
Eds. High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.
600 North River Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-2898
e-mail: press@highscope.org
www.highscope.org

February 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5 Tuition Due	6	7	8	9
12	13	14 Friendship day	15	16 Overuse Fees Due
19	20	21	22	23 Schedule Changes Due
26	27	28		