

# UNITY SCHOOL

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## PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Good-bye to our warm, beautiful Oregon summer and hello to an all too familiar fall. We have had an excellent start to the New Year, meeting new families and welcoming back returning Unity kids. There are still openings in some of our classrooms, so tell your friends and family about our fantastic program and support our growing community.

Up and coming dates to mark on your calendar:

- Open Houses @ Unity, 5:30-6:30 Wed. October 2 and Thur. October 3 please check ahead to find out what day your child's classroom is having their open house.
- October 4th @ Unity, 9am-12ish the smile bus is coming! This is Unity's version of school pictures.
- October 18th @ Unity, 6:30-8:00ish The 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 (aka the curved part of our drive way.) We do understand that parking is not ideal, however we are trying to accommodate all types of drop off/pick ups, so your corporation in keeping this in mind is greatly appreciated.
- Unity has an ongoing fundraiser of wonderful Unity shirts, lanyards, and grocery bags. Not only is this a fundraiser for our school but also it helps to get the word out around town about our wonderful program.
- Classrooms will be planning their field trips to local farms to collect pumpkins and have a fun tractor ride. Be on the look out 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!  
Chris and Susanne

<u>PROGRAM DIRECTORS</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>PANDAS</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>CATERPILLARS</u>	<u>2 &amp; 3</u>
<u>LADYBUGS</u>	<u>3 &amp; 4</u>
<u>BUTTERFLYS</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>OTTER PUPS</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>OTTERS</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>CALENDAR</u>	<u>7</u>

## PANDAS

Hello Panda families,

Welcome to fall! It is defiantly here wet and cold.

Last month we talked about our school and new friends. We explored our classroom and playground, and did some "working together" activities. One was golf ball painting with a friend. We also got a chance to visit our garden and animal friend's with Dawn.



We have an "all about me" board above the cubbies to learn about each of our Panda friends. Every child will have a turn - it's great conversation while we eat. We also did body training and took weight and height measurements. We also explored moving our bodies in different ways.

We just started to talk about safety this last week. We have had a fire drill and an earthquake drill. We have worn helmets while riding our bikes and talked about ways to be safe in the classroom, playground, parking lots, and crossing streets. We also talked about keeping our bodies safe by going to the Doctor and Dentist, and doing things like washing our hands and brushing our teeth. We are practicing coughing and sneezing into our elbow, using a tissue for our nose, and how to use our hands safely.

This month we will be going to the pumpkin patch - watch the parent board for more information coming soon. We also would love to see you all at the harvest carnival. Remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather; we will be going outside even if its wet. Rain boots and coats are great to have!

Please welcome our new aide Libby—she will be here every morning and some afternoons.

Thanks,

Cherri, Celia, and Libby

## CATERPILLARS

Hello Caterpillar families,

September sure went by quickly. The Caterpillars are learning how the room functions, expectations, and building relationships with new friends and Teachers. We have been spending a significant part of our time learning how to use our words to express our feelings, needs, and wants. We have also been learning how to recognize emotions on our friend's faces, and what to do when big emotions are happening. We will continue to work on these and will be building upon them as the Caterpillars master



techniques'. We are also working on cooperative play, how to initiate play, and how to join play. Making and expressing choices is another big concept that we work on and build on throughout the year.

A little on where things are in the classroom:

- ✓ The parent board is located above children's cubbies. Here you will find the current web, daily activity sheets, field trips, parent notices, and sign-up sheets.
- ✓ The big yellow board labeled Caterpillar Web shows how our web processes throughout the year and how the children's interests connect.
- ✓ Children's art is displayed on the red board above the coat hooks and is filed in the art file by the door to the playground when ready to go home.



During the month of October, we will start exploring the alphabet and circles. We will be taking a trip to the pumpkin patch on the beloved purple bus. Parents are welcome to join us on our field trip. Watch the Parent board for the field trip date.

Just a few notes:

- ✓ Please make sure your child has a warm jacket, rain coat, boots, and extra clothes each day. We do lots of outside play and messy projects, and often times need to change clothes.
- ✓ On Fridays our class has show and Tell. Your child may bring 1 toy to school (please not weapons of any kind).

Thank you,

Tara & Joanna

## LADYBUGS

Welcome to Fall in the Ladybug room!

We have so much happening in the next month and a lot we have already been doing. We have been learning a phonic sound every week along with how to make the letter in American Sign Language. Check out the parent board in the classroom to find which letter we are studying this week! On the parent board, you will also find the shape of the month and the theme of the week.

Since fall is here the weather has turned a bit wetter. Please make sure your child has a change of clothes because we go outside everyday even if it is raining. I have also noticed that some children



have similar coats/boots etc. It will help us if you place your child's name on these items.

Coming up we have a lot of activities planned. We are going to the pumpkin patch! Check your parent mailbox for details. We welcome parent volunteers for all field trips and the pumpkin patch is always a fun one! Please contact Dorothy or Michelle if you want to join us.

Unity is planning our annual Harvest Party. Wear your costumes and have a blast. Keep an eye out for notifications about when this will happen.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Ladybug Open house.

We had a lot of fun showing you what your child is learning! And a big Thank You to Vanessa, Carlitos' mom, for her weekly visit in the classroom.

Ladybug Teachers,

## BUTTERFLYS

Dorothy and Michelle

Happy fall everyone!

We hope you are all enjoying the crisp air and all the beauty it brings with it!

Thank you to all of you who stopped by our open house. It was really fun chit chatting with you. If you weren't able to make it, and you have any questions' please feel free to check in with Pammie or Dorothy any time.

This month, we are starting to introduce a letter of the week. We are not going in order, instead we began with

"Cc" and will continue on with each letter in their ease of printing, for example C, O, U, G, etc.

Your children have done such a lovely job melding into the Butterfly Class and are feeling right at home! We are really enjoying spending our days with them!

Important dates:

- Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> - Picture day!
- Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Festival
- Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Pumpkin Patch field trip

REMEMBER, It's getting very chilly and wet! so please make sure you child has the following items at school every day.

- Warm Coats
- Rain Coat
- Rain Boots
- Change of weather appropriate clothes in their cubby





Thank you so much for sharing your children with us! We are having a BLAST!

❤️ & Hugs,

Butterfly Team

## OTTER PUPS

Dear Otter-pup families,

Welcome to fall! How exciting for your children to be in kindergarten this year. I have had a few family members ask, "what is an Otter-pup?" Well, let me explain. The kinders and the school-agers share a classroom here at Unity. They used to all be called 'Otters' but I decided to try separate names for the groups for two reasons: 1. Sometimes we split the groups up in the afternoons and it

makes it easier if they already have separate names. 2. It makes the transition from kindergarten to first grade make more sense for these youngsters. I tell the Otter-pups they are still Otters but the Otters are not Otter-pups.

We do a weekly 'web' of ideas to plan activities and curriculum based on the children's' interests. I post the web on our 'Parent Board' if you are ever interested in checking it out! So far this year, we have 'webbed' about: "What do I want to learn?" "Hero's," "Fall," and "Food." It is really interesting to hear what the children already know and to find out what there may be confusion about. They also learn a lot from each other when they share their knowledge!

The kindergarten group this year has been having a lot of strong emotions. Transitions from summer to fall and with our crazy rainstorm can be hard. We plan group activities based on what they need to learn socially/emotionally. You may have noticed paper hands taped on the wall near the entrance of our classroom. These are "angry hands" where the children can go and push on the hands if they are feeling frustrated about something and don't know what to do with their emotions. Also, we are teaching the kiddos about how to deal with others who may be doing something that bothers them. The strategy we teach is for them to say, "Stop" to the person. Then, if that doesn't work, they should walk away. If a child that is bothering them follows them to continue to bother them, then they need to get a teacher. We are trying to avoid the children trying to solve the problem on their own by screaming or hitting and we are also trying to avoid tattling. Please talk to your child about these strategies if they are having problems with their friends and please talk to us if you have concerns.

Two more quick notes... there are some children who refuse to try food at lunch because it is unfamiliar to them, so we are highly encouraging them to take a 'no thank you' bite of each food item every day. Meaning, taste it before saying, 'no thank you.' The last request we have is for you to please make sure your child is dressed for the weather and is prepared for the weather. We do take the children outside on rainy and cold days.

Thanks and happy fall! We appreciate all of your communication.

Sincerely,  
Teachers Jessica, Whitney, and Sara

## OTTER

Dear Otters and Otter families,

Welcome to a new school year. Jessica, Sara and I are excited to see many returning Otter students and also to welcome new students to our classroom community. In order to foster an open and inclusive learning/play environment we have encouraged the Otters to work together to establish our classroom expectations and limits.



Many of the Otter students have shown great interest in our new "Odds and Ends" shelf. The shelf offers a variety of non-traditional art and craft supplies for the students to create with. Currently, cotton balls and natural artifacts, such as; twigs, leaves and seeds are favored. It is our goal to rotate a variety of materials for students to work with throughout the year. If you and your family have a box of old twist ties, magazines (appropriate images please), wood scraps, maps, paint chips, or any other "odds and ends," please consider donating them.

In addition to creating and art many students are excited to play soccer. There are games initiated most days at recess and last Friday a "team" of students challenged the teachers to a match. Needless to say, the "teacher team" lost.

Each day after snack we provide time and teacher support for Otter students to complete homework assignments. Students are not required to use this time for homework; however, it has proven very helpful for some.

We look forward to a great year and communicating with all of our Otters and Otter families.

With care,  
Teachers Whitney, Jessica and Sara



# OCTOBER 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15 OVERUSE FEES DUES	16	17	18 LADYBUG FIELD TRIP <b>HARVEST PARTY</b>
21	22 BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP	23	24	25 SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE
28	29 PANDA FIELD TRIP	30	31	1
4	5 <b>NOVEMBER'S TUITION DUE</b>	6	7	8