



UNITY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2015



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PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dear Unity Families,

The first month of 2015 is over and we are into February already. We hope that all Unity families have been staying warm and healthy during this first month of the New Year.

Our classrooms have been filling up over the past couple months, but we still have a few spots left in each class, so please tell your friends & family about Unity School. There is a \$25 dollar credit for every family referral that continues with Unity for three months or more.

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!

Our pull-through driveway is a five minutes zone, If you think you might take longer than 5 minutes inside, just pull into a parking slot to give others room to pull through. Thanks!

Here at Unity, we always celebrate love and kindness; this month, in particular, we encourage our families to participate in a friendship celebration on Friday, February 13th. Each classroom will be doing their own activity. 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 sugary 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 Chris



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A few friendly reminders:

It is important for a parent or legal guardian to sign your child in and out daily (not the child) on the sign-in sheet in the lobby. Not only is this a safety precaution for a head count in an emergency, it is also a legal document accounting for the hours your child is in our care. Please feel free to have your child sign in/out on the new child sign in sheet on the long table in the hallway. Also, please let us know when your child is going to be gone; it is very helpful for planning daily schedules in the classrooms, bus schedules, and Holt runs.

Thanks for your cooperation with these matters.

Unity school works hard with families to accommodate needed schedules in your busy lives. We ask that schedule changes get turned in or communicated to the office by the 25th of the month. This helps Virginia know what hours she is billing you for and also helps us know how many children we have in the building at all working hours for staffing and new enrollment. If you choose to bring your child in early or need them to stay late it's important that you call ahead to make sure space and staffing is available. If you have any questions please stop in the front office, we would be happy to help.

Childcare tuition is due on the 1st of each month and becomes late after the 5th. To avoid late fee charges please get tuition paid in a timely manner. We appreciate each and every family at Unity and look forward to the year ahead.

Thank you
Unity School

OFFICE MANAGER

Hi there Unity families,

There were a couple of updates made to our family handbook. If you would like to print out or view the updated handbook, visit our web site: www.unityschoolseugene.org. And, as a reminder, our website is frequently getting updates made to it so check it out once in a while and see what's new.

The policies that were added are:

- **Right to Refuse Child Release**

We may refuse to release children if we have reasonable cause to suspect that any person picking up a child is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or is physically or emotionally impaired in any way that may endanger the child. To protect your child, we may request that another adult listed as an Emergency and Release Contact pick up the child or we may call the police to prevent potential harm to your child. Reoccurring situations may result in the dismissal of your child from the program.

- **Dangerous Weapons**

A dangerous weapon is a gun, knife, razor, or any other object, which by the manner it is used or intended to be used is capable of inflicting bodily harm. Families, children, staff or guests (other than law enforcement officers) possessing a dangerous weapon will not be permitted onto the premises.

In cases that clearly involve a gun, or any other weapon on our premises, the police will be called and the individual(s) involved will be immediately removed from the premises. This policy applies to visible or concealed weapons.

- ***Underuse of Hours***

No refunds are made for sick days or other unused hours. Hours may be made up within the same month if space is available. Arrange makeup hours through the front desk. Unused hours may not be made up beyond the end of the month.

I hope you all have a great February,
Virginia

PANDA CLASS

Hi Panda families,

Well, there went another month and boy was it fun. When we returned from our holiday break the children seemed very interested in dinosaurs, so we did a lot of dinosaur-themed play and discussion. We painted dinosaur footprints, put dinos in rolled oats, built roads for dinosaurs to walk on and read a lot of dinosaur books.

After dinosaurs, the children's interests led us to music and instruments. We have been singing our favorite songs while playing instruments, learning to name and use a variety of instruments (mostly percussions), and listening to music while we work on art projects. We got to make our own shakers, and even got to play on a hand-made marimba!!!

We want to welcome a couple of new friends to our class, Coen and Aubrey. We're so happy to have you!

We will be taking a field trip to Bounce Gymnastics on Monday, February 2nd. We have an informational flyer posted on our classroom door, as well as on the parent message board in the main hallway. Please be sure to sign the waiver that is located in our classroom. Feel free to join even if your child does not normally attend Unity that Monday.

Wishing health & Happiness,
Cherri & Celia

CATERPILLAR CLASS

We have a field trip this month to NAAG gymnastics. Please check the parent board in the Caterpillar room for more information.

The Caterpillar class is now very full. We are having fun in our busy class learning about social interactions, emotions, empathy, self-help skills, and now we are also doing a letter of the week. Since our Caterpillars are young and learning routines, it is great to keep them on a consistent schedule.



Dropping off between 8:30-8:45 gives your child a chance to play outside before coming into structured time. 9:30 is also another great time to drop-off. Please avoid dropping off between 8:45-9:30. Our class is very structured during this time of the day and our littles are very easily distracted. Thanks for your understanding.

We will be celebrating a friendship day Friday, February 13th. Your child can bring in cards or Valentines. Please make sure there is enough for each child to get one. You may label them with the children's names or you can leave them blank. Class lists will go out shortly in parent mailboxes. Since we do not allow sweets or candy we will have a sign-up to bring in fun things for our friendship party.



JUST A FEW REMINDERS:

- * Please avoid dropping off at circle & nap times
- * Sharing is on Fridays
- * Friendship Party February 13th (no sweets)
- * Gymnastics fieldtrip coming up

Thank you,
The Caterpillar teaching Staff

LADYBUG CLASS

The beginning of the new year has started out with a bang. We had a wonderful field trip to Christian's family farm to see the baby animals. Thank you to Virginia Buro'n and Delfino Buro'n for inviting us to their farm for a fun day out! We were happy that some of you joined us for the trip and welcome family to join us for any field trip or any time during the day too.

We spent the entire month of January learning about space. We also covered letters M, N, O and P. We learned a lot of new words such as Nebula, Orbit and Pulsar. We also discussed germs, how they spread and the importance of hand washing.

Looking forward to the next month we will be focusing on friendship and will have a friendship party where your child can exchange cards. We encourage homemade cards and request no edible treats added to cards for our exchange. Please look in your parent mailbox to find a classroom list for cards. We will also start learning about Q, R, S, and T. Please consult the parent board in our classroom for more information.

Welcome to Jacobi Nelson and Jack Josephsen who are two new Ladybugs this month! We are looking forward to playing and learning with you both

Your Ladybug teachers

Michelle, Dorothy and Mandolin



Reading to Children

When you read aloud to your children regularly, the benefits are huge. It's important to start early—when you read to your newborn baby, you are stimulating connections in the part of her brain that handles language sounds. The more frequently your baby hears the sounds, the faster she becomes at processing them, so when she's a toddler trying to learn language, she'll more easily be able to hear the difference between similar sounds. Later, as a grade-schooler learning to read, she'll be more skilled at sounding out unfamiliar words on the page.

Reading aloud doesn't need to stop once your child can read on their own. As you read more mature material to your child, she will be learning about more complex aspects of life and relationships and it will give you both an opportunity to talk about more mature issues in a safe space. You can use those moments to strengthen your relationship with your child. As a parent, you will forever appreciate those moments of closeness, and your child will always remember being read to as a special bonding time.

BUTTERFLY CLASS

Hello Butterfly Families,

Love is in the air this month, and we certainly are feeling it in the Butterfly room! Thank you to all the families that made our 100th day party such a success. The posters in the hallway are beautiful and the kids are such artists!

Be on the lookout for our "Friendship Day" handout in your mailboxes. We will be exchanging cards on Thursday, February 12th as that is our day when most of the kids are here.

We have a tentative field trip to the National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics or the "Pirate Ship Place" (as the kids call it) on Friday the 13th. We will be leaving at 9:15 am, and would need all of the kids here by 9:00 am so they don't miss out!

We have been working hard each day on getting "Kindergarten Ready". We have been practicing our cutting skills, pencil grips, letter sounds, and counting. We are also encouraging the kids to be good self-managers and to be empowered to do things for themselves. For example, all of our butterflies put their own coats and shoes on by them selves in our classroom.

We are so proud of the growth we are witnessing in our students since the beginning of the year. Thanks for all of the hard work you are doing at home, and for supporting us here in our community at Unity.

Pammie & Cassie



OTTER & OTTER PUP CLASS

Otter and Otter-pup families,

What a great start to the new year! There has been so much learning going on. The Otter-pups have been learning about families, time (including telling the time on a clock), peace, and birds. When we learned about families, we focused on how very different



everyone's families are and how families go through changes. For Martin Luther King Jr. Day we learned about the great changes that MLK Jr. helped to make for our country and we did a few art projects related to it. The following week, we learned about birds and the different ways they adapt to the cold weather of winter.

For reading group, the Otter-pups focused on learning about some word families and working on the letters g and h. They sure are flourishing in their reading skills and you can see how proud of themselves they are!

The Otters have been busy with various art projects and also with creating new Lego structures. They work really hard on creating Lego structures that they save and continuously work on, but we break them down a few times a year to start fresh. It sure does keep them busy searching through the box for 'cool' pieces and working with their friends to collaborate ideas and share structures. They learn such great team-building skills when working with their peers and negotiation skills when trading to get the 'cool' pieces that they want.

We wanted to say thank you very much for all of the wonderful gifts we got for the classroom from families over the holiday season. We weren't certain which families gave which gifts so we wanted to make sure to say 'thanks' here. We got scented markers, gel pens (great for Spirograph!), a soccer ball, play dough, a big bag of yarn, the game 'Sorry,' clay, colored Sharpie markers, and probably other things that I am forgetting to mention. We appreciate it all so much! We also got rubber band looms and wikistix from the Birney family- thanks! You all are wonderful!!

Hope you all are doing great and please don't hesitate to let us know any questions or comments you may have! And please continue to let us know of any schedule changes for your child. It is especially important for us to know if we do not need to pick them up from school. Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Teachers Jessica and Sarah



Some information about Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. It is formed by the natural breakdown of uranium in rock, soil and water.

Radon gas moves up through the soil and can be drawn into our homes by slight pressure differences. Once inside, radon can become trapped and build up to unsafe levels.

The U.S. Surgeon General warns that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking and the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

Here at Unity School, we tested our Radon levels in November. The results indicate that the radon levels in our building are so low that it couldn't be detected, which means your children are not at risk for indoor radon exposure.

FEBRUARY 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5 TUITION DUE	6
9	10	11	12	13 FRIENDSHIP DAY
16 OVERUSE FEES DUE	17	18	19	20
23	24	25 SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE	26	27

[Check the website for upcoming events too](#)