

October

2015

Unity School

Newsletter

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Unity Families,

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.

What a fun time everyone had at our Munchkin Run last Friday. This was the first year we held this event at Unity School. The kids had a great time running, skipping, or just walking around our temporary track we made on our playground. It was so nice to see families come out and support their child/grandchild for this event. Please remember all pledge sheets/money are due by October 9th to help fund our new car seats for the bus our goal is to reach \$1500. Thanks for your support and donations!

You might have read in last months newsletter that Chris has taken a full time position with the Springfield School District and had her last day at Unity September 30th. We will miss her, but wish her the best for this new adventure. **I do have some exciting news to share that Jessica Graham (Otter Teacher) was hired as our new Assistant Director and will be working with me to help run our wonderful program at Unity School.** This transition will be gradual over the next couple months as we work to find a new After School teacher for the Otter program. Congrats, Jessica!!!

Up-coming dates to mark on your calendar:

Parent conferences @ Unity--October/November. Please check with your classroom teacher to sign up for a conference.

October 2nd, 9am-11:30 am-- 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 & stay with them during the time the smile bus will be here if you want a school picture of your child.

October 23rd, 6:30-8:00--Unity School's 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 program!

Feel free to stop by and say hi!
Susanne



PANDA CLASS

Hello Again,

Wow September sure flew by, didn't it? We'd like to welcome Delaney and Tai to our Panda Family, as well as Casey, who has joined our anda team as an assistant in our classroom.

We started off the school year by re-learning our routine morning circle and "jobs", choice-time in the classroom, and small-group activities. We spent our first week practicing having calm, "inside" bodies and voices. As well as working on particular self-help skills, such as serving with tongs, using utensils, and thoroughly washing and drying hands.

We finished the month by learning about colors. We created a web of colors by looking at picture books, and bringing a variety of toys to circle to observe and discuss. We started with the primary colors, and then branched out to green, purple, orange and more. We did a variety of color-mixing activities using paint, play dough and flubber.

As you know we're getting into the season of colder weather, and rain will soon come also. That said, please make sure your child has a variety of clothes at school - short and long sleeved shirts, a raincoat and boots, extra pants and socks.

For those of you who don't know, we have a parent information board above the water fountain in our room. On it you can see our child-derived web, activities from each day, and any upcoming events. Be on the look out for our next field trip to the pumpkin patch - time/date TBA.



Please feel free to ask questions you may have or talk to us about any concerns with your child!

Thanks,
Cherri, Celia, Casey

CATERPILLAR CLASS

Welcome to the Caterpillar class!

The children are adjusting well to the new classroom. They are planning where they want to play and explore, moving about the room, exploring and engaging in activities, and they are able to recall what they did!

During September our small group times consisted of a lot of self help skills: putting on their own coats, socks, and shoes. We worked on serving our own food using tongs and spoons, and scraping at the end of eating times. You can help your child be successful at school by encouraging your child to independently put on their own socks, shoes and coats on and by letting them serve themselves food and pour their drinks from a pitcher.

During October we will continue to work on self-help skills, work on the children recognizing their names and the letter their name starts with. We will work on colors, social conflict resolution, and implement the children's interest that starts to develop. We will be going to the pumpkin patch Friday the 16th! Please have your child here by 8:30 wearing their rain boots and coats, and a grocery sack with your child's name on it to carry the pumpkin in.

A Few Reminders:

- Pumpkin Patch field Trip Oct. 16th (9:00-11:30)
- Please keep an extra pair of clothing in your child's cubby
- If your child is here for nap, please keep a blanket and stuffed animal in your child's nap cubby (across from regular cubby). Please take them home on Friday and wash them.
- Be sure to check the parent board above your child's cubby for Web, Daily activity sheets, and info on upcoming events, "Daily".
- Check your child's cubby and art file for artwork that can go home.
- We go outside everyday! Please bring a coat, gloves, hat and boots for your little one so they do not get cold.



Ice Cream Social



If you have any questions, comments or concerns please let Tara or Jessica know. We are always happy to talk with you.

Thank you,
(The Caterpillar Staff) Tara, Jessica & Kevin

LADYBUG CLASS

Hello Ladybug Families!

Welcome to all of our new Ladybug families and welcome back to our returning Ladybugs. We are looking forward to a fantastic year with our new class. We have so many exciting things planned.

You may have already noticed your children showing you some of the new things they are learning. Please consult the parent board in our classroom and the planning sheets above the cubbies to find out what we have been doing each day. We are starting the year out learning a different letter each week including phonics, writing and signing that letter. We have also been talking a lot about germs and how they spread to help ensure our classroom stays healthy all year.

We are already planning some great field trips too. Please keep an eye on your parent mailbox for information regarding days and times. There are always volunteer opportunities for the field trips as well as in the classroom. If you have a skill you would like to share or just want to come in and read a book or sing some songs, we welcome you! Please arrange a time with the teachers in your classroom so we can make your time in our classroom the most fun possible.

It is now Fall and with the change of seasons come a change of weather. We play outside in nearly all kinds of weather. Please send your child in clothing that will keep him/her comfortable for the day's activities and a change of clothes can be kept in cubbies in case of need. If your child would like to bring a pair of rubber boots to use at school, we have a spot under the coats to store them.



Just a reminder to leave backpacks at home as we have very little space to store items like that. If your child needs a backpack for transition purposes or other reasons, please see Dorothy or Michelle to discuss options.

Please see Dorothy or Michelle if you have any concerns or questions

Michelle, Dorothy and Mandolin

BUTTERFLY

Dear Butterfly Families,

Wow! This year is already flying by!!!! It seems as though school just started, yet it's already October!!! Fall is here, and I think we are all ready for the cooler weather, and hopefully some good, old fashioned RAIN!

We have been having a wonderful time getting to know each of your children better, and you too! It will be fun as the year progresses, as we get to learn even more about your children, your families and the cultures and traditions in which you celebrate!

Now that the children know the routines and schedules in Butterfly-land, we will begin our more in-depth enrichment program. This will entail a letter, color and shape of the week, along with whatever themes/webs this month and our children bring to light!

This month we will also be highlighting families on our "Family Tree". Every 2 to 3 weeks, two families will be given a letter explaining how our "Family Tree" works, as well as a questionnaire to be filled out AND asked to bring in a few pictures to be placed on the "tree". All of these items will be returned to you after your turn on the tree. We go in alphabetical order, so please don't worry if you will get a turn! Everyone will have their family honored between now and the end of our school year! It's a very lovely way to share the cultures, traditions and backgrounds of our families, and the children love seeing their pictures hanging in our room! Please note that this is not mandatory - it is up to you whether or not you want to share this information. We will send the information to each family before it's your turn. If you choose not to partake, just let us know, and we will respect your wishes.



Gentle Reminders

- If you haven't had an opportunity to read the Butterfly Parent Handbook that you were given in your mailbox at Unity, we ask that you do so. It is full of almost everything you need to know about the Butterfly class, what to bring, what not to bring, etc. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Pammie or Erin!
- Please remember to take home your child's blankets at the end of the week to get washed, and then bring back

the following week in the 2 gal. bag they go home in. This will not only help keep germs at bay, it also makes the blankets smell and feel more comfy at rest time. Thank you! OH! Also, we have VERY limited space in our room, so please keep the blankets and pillows small enough to fit in the bags. If you need a second bag to fit a small pillow in, please ask, and we will be happy to give you one!

- If your child uses the spare change of clothes in their cubby, please be sure to replace them (especially panties and undies). We don't have a lot of spare clothes to offer, and we want to make sure your children are dry and comfy.
- Now that the rainy season is on it's way, we ask that all of the children have a pair of rain friendly boots (to leave here) AND a raincoat, both marked with your child's name. If this is not possible, please see Pammie. We'll figure something out. We go outside even when it's raining, and we really want the children to stay as dry as possible.

Important Dates

- * Picture Day ~ Friday, October 2nd (times vary per ages/classes)
- * Pumpkin Patch Field Trip ~ Thursday, October 15th (more information to follow)
- * Harvest Carnival ~ Friday, October 23rd (evening)

Well, that's about it for this month! If you ever have questions, concerns or just want to say hi, please feel free to chat with either Pammie (7:00 - 1:30), Erin (1:30 - 4:30) or Jessica Graham 8:30 - 1:00). We also have a "Parent/Teacher Communication" notebook that lives on the white, teacher desk in the Butterfly class. You can leave us messages in there if you happen to miss us!

Thank you so much for sharing your little treasures with us! We are having so much fun, learning and growing with them!!! Have a beautiful, fun-filled and safe October!

Hugs and Smiles,

Pammie, Erin and Jessica

OTTER CLASS

Welcome to the new school year!

It's nice to meet new faces and families as well as seeing our returning friends.

You all should have received a 'Welcome letter' with information about the after-school program. The two most important things to remember are to let us know of any absences (especially when it comes to transportation so we aren't spending time waiting for a student who is not going to come) and to let us know of your child's homework needs. Also, we would love it if you filled out the 'family questionnaire' that was attached to the letter and return it with a family picture.

The Otters have been learning and getting used to new routines and also making new friends so far this year. Some popular activities have been rubber-band jewelry, making new Lego structures, dressing up and playing pretend, playing the keyboard, spending time with our garden cat, Cloudy, and making elaborate domino structures.

Thank you to those of you who were able to volunteer for weekend pet care in September! It's a big help to our furry friends. The classes take turn by month recruiting help for weekend pet care, and if the class is able to fill up the calendar then they get a party! The next month we are responsible for this will be in February.

Please join us for our annual Harvest Carnival on October 23rd. Its loads of fun! Everyone is invited to wear costumes and we have lots of activities and snacks.

Enjoy the lovely fall weather!

Sincerely,
Teachers Jessica and Sarah



OCTOBER 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1	2 Smile Bus
5 Tuition Due	6	7	8	9 Munchkin Run Pledges Due & Ladybug Pumpkin Patch
12	13	14	15 Butterfly Pumpkin patch & Overuse Due	16 Caterpillar Pumpkin patch
19	20	21	22 Panda Pumpkin patch	23 Harvest Carnival
26 Schedule Changes Due	27	28	29	30