

JANUARY 2018

UNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

580 N. Garden Way ❖ Eugene, Ore 97401

Ph: 541-484-0107 ❖ FAX: 541-484-6944

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!

We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and spent some quality time with family and friends. Thank you for all of the wonderful 'Wish Tree' gifts- we really appreciate them. All of the classes are having a blast with their new items.

What a wonderful turn out we had for the Winter Celebration! Thanks to all the families who came and spent the evening with us. What an amazing job the children did on their performances and the yummy treats they made for the event were scrumptious! The fundraising baskets were such a success, Unity raised another \$279 to help reach our fundraising goal for the Panda room remodel. Thanks for all your donations and support!

We want to take a moment and acknowledge the *fabulous* staff we have at Unity School! Your kids are taught by our tremendous team members who are caring, creative, encouraging, supportive, and committed to your children and Unity School. The staff has done a remarkable job learning and implementing more High/Scope aspects, utilizing our garden space, volunteering for Pet Care on the weekends, and doing both field trips and community service projects with their classes! We are really proud that we have such an awesome team to guide your children and make their learning experiences the best they can be! Take a moment and thank a staff member, letting them know how they've done a super job for you lately!

Have you had a chance to check out our revamped website? Please take a peek and let us know what you think! <http://unityschooleugene.org> We will be working to keep our current events posted on the home page so that the website can be a go-to place for you to get information about what is happening at Unity School.

As a reminder, we have a policy that the food your children eat here at school must come from our kitchen. There are a few reasons for this. 1. We get reimbursed for the cost of food from USDA when we serve food from our kitchen. This helps us a lot! 2. We want to ensure that children are offered a nutritious meal with all of the required components to have a successful day. and 3. It can cause other children to get upset if they see their friend eating food from home and they want it too but can't have any. This can be a little challenging in the morning time when children are being dropped off bringing in their breakfast from home. We are okay with it if you are sitting with your

child while they are finishing up their breakfast from home but when you drop your child off with food and then leave it can cause issues. Thank you for your help with this matter!

We have a new idea for our newsletter! Next month we want to try out a 'Dear Teacher' column. This is your chance to ask us for advice about how to handle particular situations with your child. You will find a box in front of Virginia's office that you can submit your anonymous questions. At our staff meeting, we will discuss the questions as a team and feature as many of the Q & A's as we can in our February newsletter. If it is a hit, we will continue the 'Dear Teacher' column in the future.

We also wanted to share our procedure in the event that we get snow and ice and the roads are unsafe to drive on. In this event, there will be a phone message with information regarding delays/closures by 6:30am. Please feel free to call in [after 6:30am](#) if you are unsure about any possible delay/closure.

Thanks!

Susanne & Jessica

PANDA CLASS

Hey Panda families!

December was a fun Month of mostly art activities. Each child had a big part in making our winter art collage on the wall. We asked what makes a snowman and they helped come up with ideas to put it together. We made projects with beads and pipe cleaners, and the kids decided they wanted to paint candy canes, so we did!

Our field trip to NAAG was a blast. We are glad some of you were also able to attend - it's fun having parents with us! On that note, let us know if you like to visit us in the classroom some time to share an interest with the group. It could be an activity or game, a song, or a book. We'd all love it.

As you all know, it's been very cold outside. Although the time is shorter, we still go outside 2-3 times every day. We have some gloves and mittens for kids but not enough for each child. It would be very helpful if you are able to send a pair of mittens with you child to stay at school. Also, we have some warm sweatshirts, but a warm thick coat would be best for outside play times. Thanks so much, and remember to name any items you bring for you child so it is easier to recognize.

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to our Egan Warming Centers drive. Every bit helps!

One more friendly reminder:

We know everyone's schedule is a bit different, and many times work schedules are not flexible, but we've found that the best time to drop off you child is no later than 9:30 each day. The times between 9:50-10:30, and 12:30-2:30 are difficult drop-off times.

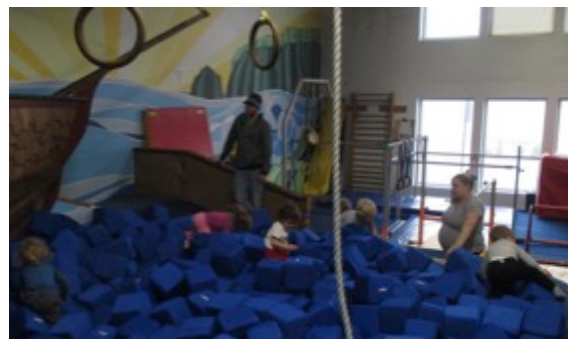
We just want your child's transition to be as smooth as possible.

Happy New Year,

Cherri, Celia & Briana

REMINDER:

We can now do automatic ACH payment for tuition.
Just ask Virginia about it and to get the form.



CATERPILLAR CLASS

Happy 2018 Caterpillar families,

It's hard to believe the new Year has already come. We would like to say a big "Thank You" for all the gifts we received and to all the families who joined us for the Winter Festival. The children worked so hard and they created such an amazing evening.

December was an exciting month for the Caterpillars. We learned about families and their cultures in the classroom. We discussed the people and pets that live in our homes and investigated the different types of homes people live in. The children learned about a variety of foods that we eat, had shared some songs the love from home. A big classroom favorite is, "I've been working on the Railroad."

Aside from these great projects, the Caterpillars also had a visit from Cullen's dad, a local mailman, and several other parents. We learned about finger printing and we learned some words in Spanish. If you would like to come volunteer in the classroom please let Jessica or Melissa know, we would love to have you! Some activities you can share with the classroom would be reading a book, providing and helping out with an art activity, or teaching us a song. The possibilities are endless!



Since the month of December has been so busy we decided to have a more relaxed January with no big events planned. However, keep your eyes peeled for an early February field trip to the National Academy of Artistic Gymnastics.

Have a great January,
Jessica, Melissa and Mandolin

LADYBUG CLASS

Hi there everyone!

Welcome to the new year and we hope your holidays were great! We're so excited to dive into new learning with the children this month. The Ladybugs will be exploring office work, writing, reading and post office duties. We have already come half way through the alphabet while exploring the world around us, it's so fun to see a child's face light up when they discover facts for themselves.

The Ladybugs didn't make it to the gym in December but we have exciting plans for the first week of January. Check the class door for chaperone sign up and participation. Also, we're looking for parent volunteers to join us in the classroom for baking projects and craft projects, let Dorothy or Jessica know if you're interested this month.

Thank you for remembering your child's art and nap items on Fridays. Please check your child's cubby for extra changes of clothes and hats and mittens so we can help them stay warm and dry. Thank you for all you do to be great parents!

Love from your Ladybug Teachers



BUTTERFLY CLASS

Happy New Year!!

Wow! Last year flew by so fast!! We had so much fun getting to know our new class, new teachers and some new friends.

With the new year upon us we are ramping up our kindergarten readiness program. This time of year always proves to be a huge growth time for children and their desire to learn is amazing.

Thank you to the parents who helped us out on our Gymnastics, Science Factory and Papas Pizza field trips! We appreciate your help! We'll be planning more field trips; so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming news.

The Butterfly "Family Tree" has been going really well! When you have a few minutes please take a peek and learn a little about our Butterfly families!

The entire Butterfly staff want to thank the families for the lovely gifts for our classroom and us! We feel very loved and appreciated!

Again, Happy New Year, and have a great month!

Love & hugs,

Pammie, Michelle, Kelly & Sarah



SEA TURTLE CLASS

Sea Turtle Families,



I hope you all had a great winter break! I'm excited to have you all back, and continue growing and learning together in the new year. Starting in January we will start an "All About Me" board. When it is your child's turn I will send home a questionnaire for you to fill out and ask for a few photos to display on our board. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Thanks Kristin

OTTER CLASS

Hello from the Otters,

This has been a busy month for us. The kids worked hard on the songs and skit for the winter program. We hope you enjoyed it, A special thanks to Gabi & Alice for helping get our props ready.

We also had a field trip to a retirement home to visit the grandmas & grandpas that live there. The

kids made holiday cards with them and sang some songs for them.
We had a fun time visiting.

Some of our favorite activities to do in class in December have been playing chess, Candy Land and Twister. The kids have also enjoyed reading stories together at circle time.

We love to see the different age groups work together and help each other out with reading and writing.

We look forward to seeing the continuing growth as individuals, and as a group in the New Year.

Best wishes,
Kristin & Sarah



WILD TREE FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 2018
2:00 PM @ Unity School

Join us for a fun afternoon and make 10
healthy meals with you child!

Cost: \$85.00

Plus the Meat & Veggies to make the meals

RSVP by January 15, 2018



Eco-Healthy Child Care® helps early childhood learning environments to be as healthy, safe and green as possible by reducing children's exposure to toxic chemicals.

Recycling & Garbage Storage

Americans generate trash at an astonishing rate of four pounds per day per person, which translates to 600,000 tons per day or 210 million tons per year! Electronic waste or "e-waste" (o/e/, computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copiers, fax machines) alone is estimated to be 20-25 Million tons per year globally. E-waste can contain many toxic elements and agents. While the most important way to save valuable resources is to use as few as possible in the first place recycling and using recycled products is the next best step.

Benefits of Recycling

- Conserves natural resources like trees, metal, oil, and minerals for future generations.
- Lessens habitat destruction as a result of deforestation recycling reduces need for raw materials and helps preserve our forests.
- Saves energy. A lot of energy is needed to make products from raw materials; recycling requires much less energy.
- Prevents emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, leading to cleaner air, cleaner water and a more stable climate.
- Reduces the need for landfills and incinerators.

21 Ways to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

1. Recycle glass, paper, cardboard, aluminum and plastic.
2. Institute a recycling program that the children participate in and are responsible for. Children are never too young to learn to recycle.
3. Compost food scraps. Start a worm bin or other composting system. Check with you health consultant as to how and where this may be done according to your state child care regulations.
4. Avoid using disposable plates, cups, and silverware.
5. Buy/Sell used items (always check with the consumer product safety commission (CPSC) website for product recalls on used toys and equipment). Be especially vigilant about looking for lead and choking hazards.
6. Substitute rechargeable batteries for throw-away batteries.
7. Use reusable bags for shopping.
8. Reduce junk mail by canceling duplicates and asking to be removed from unwanted mailing lists.
9. Donate used books and magazines to your local library, school, hospital or nursing home.
10. Donate unwanted toys and clothing to your local charity.
11. Replace paper napkins and towels with cloth napkins, and towels. Cloth hand towels and towels for cleaning may be used for "single use" only to prevent the spread of communicable disease.
12. Purchase toilet paper made from recycled contents.
13. Choose recycled office paper for printing.
14. Buy in bulk; use your own reusable containers.
15. Reuse food jars for storage. Be sure to wash and sanitize reusable food containers before using for food storage again.

16. Donate old computers to schools or non-profits.
17. Pick up books, CDs, and DVDs from you local library or used bookstore.
18. Properly recycle all electronic products.
19. Support 'Manufacture Takeback Programs' - where manufacturers or retailers accept used electronic products back from their customers to recycle, reuse, or dispose of the product properly.
20. Return unused drugs to a pharmacy, do not flush remaining portion down the toilet.
21. Recycle items containing mercury (batteries, thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs) by taking them to a hazardous waste facility. Visit www.earth911.org to find a location near you.

Garbage Storage

Keep garbage areas clean. Follow these suggestions to avoid pests and to minimize odors.

- Take the trash out regularly; don't let trash pile up!
- Clean empty trashcans and remove trash from inside the building at the end of the day.
- Make sure indoor garbage containers have tight-fitting lids and plastic linings.
- Keep outdoor garbage containers, including composting bins, covered tightly. Ensure the lids fit snugly to form a seal.
- Ensure all garbage areas are inaccessible to children.
- Keep garbage storage areas (large dumpsters/cans collected by trucks) at least 50 feet away from entranceways of the child care facility or play yard. These containers should be on pest-proof pavement such as concrete that can be cleaned regularly. Sticky spilled liquids attract pests.
- Promptly recycle all appropriate materials (glass, cardboard, plastic, paper and aluminum). Be sure to rinse and clean recyclables.
- Adapted from *Integrated Pest Management: A Curriculum for Early Care and Education Programs* (Link at www.cehn.org/ehcc/resources).

Recycling Resources

- EPA: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/rrr/index.htm>
- Eco Tips
<http://www.globalstewards.org/ecotips.htm>
- Freecycle
<http://www.freecycle.org>
- The Story of Stuff
<http://www.storyofstuff.com>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL: 202-543-4033, EXT. 13
Email: info@ecohealthychildcare.org
Visit: www.cehn.org/ehcc

More Recycling resources can be found at: <http://www.cehn.org/ehcc/resources>

Eco-Healthy child care® (EHCC) is a science-based, award-winning national program that seeks to improve the environmental health of children by partnering with child care professionals to eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards found in child care facilities. Originally created by the Oregon Environmental Council in 2005, EHCC is now managed by Children's Environmental Health Network.

Eco-Healthy Child Care®
c/o Children's Environmental Health Network
110 Maryland Ave. NE Suite 402 I Washington, DC 20002
202.543.4033, ext.13



January 2018

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|--|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Tuition Due |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 Overuse Charges Due | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 Corporation Meeting @ 6:30pm | 24 | 25 Schedule Changes Due | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

January 27, 2018 @ 2 pm Wild Tree Fundraiser