

Unity School Newsletter

September 2026



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OFFICE STAFF

Unity families,



First, I would like to welcome all our new and returning families back to Unity School for a great new year ahead.

My name is Susanne Hodson, and I am the Executive Director at Unity School. October will mark my 33rd year at Unity and my 16th year Co-Directing. I have enjoyed every day working with such wonderful staff and families.

On a personal note, I have a wonderful husband (Doug). This month we will be celebrating our 34th anniversary! Our three children Taylor, Zachary, and Megan are all grown up and out of the house. Taylor, my oldest, has worked in security since after his service in the Navy. Zachary and his wife Mikaela have a rambunctious 3-year-old (Dawson) who will be moving up to the Caterpillar room in September, and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing my grandson every day at work. Megan, our youngest, is almost 24 and is enjoying adulthood as she settles into her new job. When I'm not at Unity, I love camping, spending time with family, going to the beach, and of course BINGO!

I look forward to the new school year ahead. Please stop by our office any time you have questions or just want to say "HI"!

Susanne

Hello, Unity Families!

My name is Dani Brosseau, and I am honored to serve as your Program Director. Over the years, I have worn many hats at Unity—beginning as the Afterschool Lead, then moving into roles as a Substitute Teacher, Sub-Director, and Assistant Director before stepping into my current position in

2021. With 12 years of experience in education—primarily in Special Education, Early Childhood Education, and at a trauma-behavioral transition middle school—I have found my true home here at Unity.

A little about me: I am passionate about gardening, plants, cooking, and expressing myself through various art forms. As an aspiring author, I am nearing completion of my second manuscript. I am also the proud mother of an amazing 11-year-old boy who enjoyed the after-school program at Unity before aging out.



I wholeheartedly share Unity's values and believe every child—regardless of developmental stage—deserves a high-quality, equitable education. I cherish the connections I make with each student and deeply appreciate the welcoming, home-like atmosphere we foster together. Our dedicated teachers and staff make Unity a special place, and I am grateful to be part of this vibrant community.

Here's to another incredible year ahead!

Dani Brosseau

Hello everyone,

My name is Virginia, and most of you know me by now. I am the Office Manager here at Unity School, and October will be my 14-year anniversary; it is also my Birthday month. I love meeting all our new families and saying hi to our returning ones. Unity School feels like a second family, and I love working with everyone here.



My husband and I have been married for 34 years this month. We have 7 adult children (4 girls, 1 boy, and a niece and nephew) between the 2 of us and 16 grandchildren we love spending time with. We also have two very spoiled Labs; one is a white English lab (Lucy), and the other is a Lab and Border Collie mix who is black (Susie). We also acquired a cat (Tigger) this year; he is a little monster. He is an orange tabby, already 10 lbs., and only 10 months old. We still have a lot of growing to do.

I have lived in Oregon most of my life, and my husband was born and raised here. We love floating the McKenzie River and fishing, hunting in the mountains, and crabbing and clamming on the coast. We do a lot of hiking with our grandkids, and we camp as often as we can with our children and grandchildren. We also have many family get-togethers. As you can tell, family is very important to us.

Here is to a great new year,

Virginia

Hi everyone! Welcome back to school! We are SO glad you're here! I hope that y'all had a wonderful, safe, and fun-filled summer. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Pam Rossetter, although most people call me Pammie! I have been working at Unity School as a Teacher, sub-cook, and an Office Assistant (my current position) for 20 years!

This past July 9th, I celebrated my 45th year working in Preschools. A majority of those years I spent teaching pre-kindergarten (two of which were spent teaching 3-year-olds). This August, I celebrated my 20th year at Unity School! No matter what I do here, I am still in love with this school, the children, teachers, admin, support staff, and parents, who fill me up on a daily basis! I'm very blessed to love where and with whom I work every day!



On a personal note, I am married to my best friend/husband Doug (who just retired after 25 years of teaching Special Education). I have three grown-up stepchildren, 15 cats (no, they do not all live in my home), and I live in a sweet 1940s home in Eugene!

I LOVE reading! I have a huge passion for children's literature, and love to read to children whenever the opportunity arises. My husband and I have a Little Free Library at our house that is geared toward children through teens. I also enjoy walking, playing in my yard (weeding), baking, cooking, and binge-watching sappy "Hallmark" type movies when time allows.

I look forward to seeing all of our existing families and meeting all of you new families coming in this year!

Hugs and Smiles,
Pammie

PANDA

Hello Families,



My name is Jennifer Grimes, AKA Teacher Jen. This will be my ninth year as the a.m. Panda Teacher. I am so excited to get to know our new families and continue working with familiar ones.

I have been at Unity throughout much of my adult life. I began my journey in 1994 and took a few years off while my own children were young before returning to join the Unity staff again. It's like being home.

Outside of work, I live with my fiancé, Doug, and three of our six children. I have three daughters, Isabelle (25), Amelia (22), and Chloe (16). As well as three bonus kids, Taylor (30), Clayton (20), and Madison (18).

We spend a lot of our time caring for our four dogs, two cats, nine horses, eight goats, lots of chickens, and a small herd of cattle. We often travel to Team Roping events (and practice for them) or just ride our horses for fun. It's a busy but fun life! In my free time, I love to read, garden, be with my family, play games, go to the beach, and camp. Sometimes I even have time for a craft or furniture project.

Looking forward to a year full of memories, learning, growing, and having fun!

Jen

Hi! My name is Chaylee Kelmparson, and I'm 21 years old. I've worked at Unity School for the past three years, and I truly enjoy being part of such a wonderful school community. I love getting to know my students and their families and creating a positive, welcoming, and supportive environment for everyone. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time outdoors, especially fishing, camping, and finding new activities and places to explore. I love making memories with the people I care about and enjoying the simple things in life. I'm also engaged and currently planning my wedding, which has been such a fun and special experience! At home, I have two pets who are a big part of my life: my cat, Stink, and my dog, Rocket. They definitely keep me busy and bring lots of personality into my home! I'm very grateful for the opportunity to work at Unity School and look forward to another year of learning, growing, and making wonderful memories with my students. I'm excited to get to know each student and family and to make this a fun, positive, and successful year together!

Hi, my name is Frances! I'm an assistant teacher in the panda and caterpillar rooms. I have three years of experience teaching in early childhood education. I'm in the process of completing my bachelor's degree in psychology. I have just completed my first year at Unity School and look forward to creating many more memories here! Outside of school, I also teach tap and ballet to three- to five-year-olds. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy hiking with my dog, playing guitar, or painting. I'm very excited for what this school year holds and can't wait to learn more with your littles!

CATERPILLAR CLASS

Hello everyone! My name is Maya, and I'm so beyond thrilled to be the morning teacher substitute in our lovely caterpillar classroom! I'm in my last year as an Education Foundations student at the University of Oregon, and this will be my third school year working here at Unity. I grew up in Portland, Oregon, and go back there lots to visit my family and see my dog. I've always really loved working with kids, as a summer camp counselor and an elementary classroom volunteer, and everything else in between. In my free time, I like to ride my bike, go camping and backpacking with my friends, read books, swim in the ocean, cook fun recipes with my two roommates, collage, journal, and do yoga. Truly looking forward to meeting you all and getting the new year rolling!!

-Teacher Maya

Hi Unity families! My name is Karah, and I'm excited to be part of the Caterpillar classroom as the afternoon teacher. I have been part of Unity on and off for the past 4 years, and I always find my way back because I adore being part of the Unity community. I graduated Cum Laude from the University of Oregon in 2025 with my B.A. in Educational Foundations, and I am now in the UO Teacher Master's program to earn my master's degree in teaching and Curriculum. As I am working at Unity, I will also be a student teaching alongside at a local elementary school... keeping myself very busy!! I've always had a passion for working with children, and I'm excited to get to know your kiddos. Teacher Maya, Teacher Nesta, and I are looking forward to cultivating an engaging, enriched classroom community that builds on curiosity.

In my (rare) free time, I enjoy going on walks, trying new foods, hanging out with friends, and of course coffee!

We cannot wait to meet the new caterpillars, Teacher Karah

Hello everyone! My name is Nesta Quigley, and I am so excited to be the afternoon assistant sub in the caterpillar classroom. I was originally hired as a substitute at Unity in February 2026 and now am in a temporary permanent position as the Caterpillar assistant! I grew up in Portland, Oregon, and am currently at the uber sort of Oregon, getting my Bachelor of Science in psychology. I'm hoping to apply to graduate school after I graduate in 2028 and become a licensed child therapist. When I'm not in school, I love going on walks in nature and playing guitar and singing! I'm very much looking forward to meeting and connecting with all of you!

LADYBUG CLAS

Hello friends, my name is Dorothy, and I have been teaching preschool for over 22 years. I earned my associate degree in "Early Childhood Education" in June of 2007. I completed my AAOT degree and my associate in general studies degree in 2020, and this summer I completed my Bachelor of Business Administration and Marketing. I add to my training portfolio every year, with a focus on literacy and special needs.

I have been a Ladybug teacher for more than 13 years and love the combined age group. We are able to explore everything from their first handwriting all the way to early reading! Also, I drive the school bus ("Purple Grape") occasionally and for field trips.

Some of the names I go by are: "Dot" (my nickname for years) or perhaps a form of my name: "Dorphy", "Dorty", and my favorite "Dough-dy". You may also hear some of the outgoing Caterpillars call me "Aunt Dorothy", because my nephew was in their class. Whichever way you would like to refer to me is great; I also respond to "Teacher Dorothy" (hee hee).



I got married to a wonderful man named Jeff on August 22, 2015, and we enjoy working on projects for the school, our house, and our church. My daughter, Amber, attended Unity as a young child, graduated from LCC in 2025, and is now enjoying substituting for Unity occasionally. She loves paddle boarding and caring for her two sweet bunnies. We all enjoy reading books, making crafts, and spending time outdoors, especially camping!

I hope this is a wonderful school year for everyone, full of new adventures and memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you for sharing your cherished children with us, and for being wonderful families. Unity is a special community, and we wouldn't be the same without you!

Teacher Dorothy



Hi all! I'm Olivia, and this is my fourth school year at Unity, and I'm in the Ladybug class. I grew up in Pittsburgh, but I moved out to Oregon about 5 years ago. I live up by the McKenzie River, where I love to float down the river with my family and some good music. I recently adopted a cat named Mozzarella (who is as silly as her name suggests). I also had horses growing up, which is how I got into childcare when I became a counselor at a summer camp the ranch held. I love live music and

theatre; I love going to the Hult and any local productions here in Lane County! I'm excited to get to know you and your kids this year! I hope we have a good school year together!

Hi! I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer. My name is Sarita Sharma, and I am an assistant teacher here at Unity in the ladybug room. I have been here for seven years, and I love the amazing Unity School. I am from India, and I earned a master's degree in Sociology from Agra University in India. In my free time, I tend to my garden and go on long walks. I am a proud mother of two kids, both of whom are adults now. I am looking forward to welcoming back the returning children and families and getting to know all of the new children and families this year!

Thanks,
Sarita Sharma

BUTTERFLY CLASS



Hello, my name is Maygen Houghton, and this will be my second year here at Unity as a lead teacher! It's safe to say I am head over heels for the PNW after moving to Eugene 3 years ago from Phoenix, AZ. In Arizona, I completed 6 years of study in early child development and primary child education, from high school through university. I have always loved learning and teaching since I was young and hope to always grow and inspire others through it. Looking forward to another year of learning and growing together!

My name is Elizabeth Swenson Lopez, and I am originally from Woodburn, Oregon. I am bilingual in Spanish and English and married to my middle school sweetheart and recently moved to Eugene, Oregon! I have been working in education for eight years and have been at Unity for five months. I enjoy working with children and watching them learn, grow, and develop their unique personalities. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, exploring new places, and trying new things. I'm grateful to be part of Unity!



SEA TURTLE CLASS

Hello Unity Families,

My name is Michelle Naggia, and I am the teacher in the Sea Turtle class. This is my 7th year as the Sea Turtle teacher, and I absolutely love my class. I have taught for 16 years, all at Unity. I have an AAS in Early Childhood Education as well as a BS in History. Teaching kids is my passion, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else.



In my personal life away from work, I have two kids, 3 cats, and 1 lizard at home. I enjoy all things nerdy and quirky. I love reading, going to concerts, and making miniature dollhouse items. I also enjoy thrifting and garage sales. It's amazing what I can use for the class or for my miniatures while shopping at these places.

I learn so much from my class each year. I can't wait to see what this year's class will teach me. Whatever it is, I know it will be great!

Michelle Naggia
Sea Turtle Teacher

Hi, my name is Lydia! I was born and raised in Springfield, and I graduated from Springfield High School. I love living in such a naturally beautiful state like Oregon, but I also really enjoy traveling and exploring new places whenever I get the chance.

When I'm not busy or traveling, I love spending my free time playing golf and disc golf, getting outside and riding around on our quads, and enjoying new adventures. Most importantly, I love spending quality time with my son and boyfriend.

OTTER CLASS

Hi Unity families!

I'm Kenzie, and I will be the Otter teacher this year. I'm so excited for another school year! I started at Unity last October. This has been my first year of teaching. Before Unity, I spent a few years as a teacher's assistant at the YMCA. I also worked at more daycares in Montana. That's where I grew up! So naturally, I love all things outdoors. I love hiking, exploring new parks, and watching wildlife. I also enjoy reading, board games, and crafts! I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone this year and also welcoming back friends from last year. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if you just need a conversation.

See you all soon!

Kenzie

SUPPORT STAFF

Hi, I'm Sarah, and I'm happy to be part of the Unity team. I'm starting my 13th year at the end of September. I've been with both the Otters and Butterflies over the years. So much talent and creativity is spread across the different age groups. I've seen many children repeatedly try the monkey bars, practice pumping on the swings, and engage in all the other fun activities until they become pros!

It's also great to see the children working as a team. Older kids help push younger kids on the swings and encourage them to pump their legs so they can go high. I see compassion among the children as they help each other out when they get hurt and check in to see if they need something.



I've been working with children since 1995 and have met many wonderful children and families. There have been times when I've known children from infancy and beyond. It's great to see that much growth and change!

While here at Unity, I've met many children over the years and have gotten to know their younger brothers and sisters who came after them! It's incredible to see them grow.

Hello Unity Families,

I'm Teacher JoAnne. I have worked here at Unity for 7 years but have been in the teaching field for 27 years. I am looking forward to this next year with all the new kids coming in as well as the returning kids.

Just a little about me: I'm married to my husband, Marty, and we have a dog whose name is Angus. I have 4 children; 3 of them are married. I have lots of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a great-great-great-grandchild who is here at Unity, and just this last year I got a great-great-granddaughter. If you hear me called Mom, it's because my daughter Susanne is my boss.

I am looking forward to meeting you all,

JoAnne

Hello Unity Families,

My name is Amber. I have been part of the Unity staff since the summer of 2022, and it has been so great! As most of you know, my mom is Teacher Dorothy from the Ladybug room, so I have had the wonderful pleasure of growing up at Unity and attending here myself several years ago.

I am not tied to a specific classroom because I am a substitute teacher, but I had the pleasure of being part of the Caterpillar classroom during the summer. Although I studied business management, working with young kids will always have a place in my heart. When I am out of the classroom, I enjoy paddle boarding, reading, puzzles, and baking. I love being outside, rain or shine! One more fun fact about me: I have two pet rabbits, CinnaBun and Biscuit.

I Can't believe we are about to start another school year already, and I am excited to see what it will bring,

With Love,

Teacher Amber

COOK

Hello Unity families!



I am thrilled to spend my second year as the chef here at Unity! These kiddos brighten my day every day, and it's an honor to be the one who helps them get big and strong with healthy meals. When I am not in my Unity kitchen, you can usually find me in my home kitchen, cooking for my partner, Alex, or my friends and family. Our children consist of two cats, Kalipur and Maeve, and 4 (yes, 4) ball python snakes, Envy, Euridycie, Echo, and Elythia. When I'm not cooking, I am often out birding, playing chess with my dad, tending to my houseplants/garden, and going on long drives through the PNW!

I look forward to this new year, and all our team has to offer in the form of your kiddos' nutrition.

Happy fall ya'll! Chef Ollie



JANITOR

My name is Elliot, and I have been the janitor at Unity School for almost three years! I'm originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, and have lived in Eugene with my fiancée for 5 years. I love to draw, paint, garden, ride my bike around town, and care for my sweet kitties. I'm excited to meet all the new families this year!

GARDEN

If you ever hear someone singing in the garden, it's probably me. I've had just about every hobby there is. I've played 6 instruments, sang in choir, I've been on most sports teams, I did ocean watch life guarding, I was a cheerleader, I was a competitive seamstress, I went rafting, backpacking, camping, mushroom hunting, fishing, and crabbing.

I've been an artist of pretty much all media, I competed in baking/cooking, I was in 4-H and raised cattle, I've been working since I was 11, I tried dancing/acting/public speaking, I harvested grapes and made wine, I've been into all sorts of shows/movies/books/comics/music/stand-up/podcasts, I've worked on remodeling houses, plumbing, babysitting, I've traveled across the US and have been to 7 countries, I went to community college for 2 years with an exploratory major, and more. But what I'm truly passionate about is helping people and making flowers bloom. Of all the things I've done, I truly believe I belong in a garden. I strive to help those around me feel comfortable. And I'll always work hard to make your life a little bit easier.

Thank you,
Maeve Lockwood



SEPTEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7 Labor Day	8 Tuition Due	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 MUNCHKIN RUN Families are welcome
28	29	30		