



WATERLOO CO-OPERATIVE PRESCHOOL | 2022/2023

DECEMBER & JANUARY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS



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A NOTE FROM TEACHER TRACEY

Hello families! As the season begins to change from autumn to winter, we will be celebrating the many holidays and traditions happening this month.

Right now we are in the midst of completing parent/teacher check-ins. Zoom meetings are being booked at 7:30 a.m. right up until Christmas break. Please contact me right away if you would like to schedule a meeting (waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com).

When we return in the new year we will continue to book meetings throughout the year to ensure we have the opportunity to touch base a few times over the year.

Please continue to screen every day before class and please send your child's screening results earlier rather than later. At 8:50 a.m. or 12:50 p.m. for afternoon classes.

Please Note: It is imperative that children only attend if completely well. It is equally as important to report to the supervisor any illness within the family and that families keep us informed of any illness at home. It has been a long year of illness as children build up their immunity to the many viruses that erupt in groups. We consult public health regularly with guidance on how to manage any outbreaks.

Please use this convenient link if your child is absent for any reason: [Reason for Absence](#).

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

.We acknowledge that our preschool is situated on the land that is the traditional home of the Chonnonton, Haudenoraunee and Anishinaabe peoples. We extend our respect to all first nations, metis and inuit peoples for their past and present contributions to this land. We also recognize their enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge and philosophies with whom we share this land today.

We encourage our community to continue their reconciliation journey along with us by visiting the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR).

To find out more information about the land that you're on, visit Native-Land and Whose Land.

HELLO LITTLE SNOWFLAKE

Hello little snowflake

How are you?

How was your trip from the sky so blue?

You danced through the sky and to the ground

You sparkle, you shine

You're so unique!

Hello little snowflake

How are you?

I've never met a snowflake quite like you!

UPCOMING CLASSROOM DEVELOPMENTS & TOPICS

We are embracing the holiday season, celebrations around the world, and Christmas festivities! We'll be doing crafts, singing songs, playing with musical toys and rhythm sticks, and having fun in the snow!

We are using the environment as a learning tool when engaging with the children. We often refer to this as using the "environment as the 3rd teacher". The teachers value building positive relationships and engaging with parents. The staff reference "How does learning happen" when implementing planned and spontaneous activities with the children.

<https://files.ontario.ca/edu-how-does-learning-happen-en-2021-03-23.pdf>

Laurier students who were on placement with us finished up at the end of November and we look forward to new students during the winter semester



The KinderPrep children have demonstrated their early literacy skills as they build on their understanding of letters and what they look like and sound like, numeracy and correlating numbers and counting. We continue to work on proper pencil grip and use of scissors. Please remember to return the Special Me projects. The children really enjoy looking at each others special me posters as we display them throughout the classroom. We often see them having discussions about the things they see. They notice things that are similar and different for each child

SONGS & GAMES

We have had fun with games like 'Red Light Green Light', 'Sleeping Bunnies', 'Head and Shoulders', and 'I Spy'. They also enjoy 'What Time is it Mr. Wolf', 'Ring Around the Rosie', 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear Turn Around', and newly added songs like 'Jingle Bells', 'Rudolph', 'Five Little Chickadees', 'A Grizzly Bear'. 'I Take My Little Hands and I Clap Clap Clap', 'Mr Knickerbocker', 'Simon Says', 'I Travelled to Australia' and 'BINGO' rhythm sticks are also popular.

BOOKS

'The Gingerbread Man' is a fun book we read in December. We will introduce the children to Shape Bingo and Brown Bear Brown Bear

In January we dive into the

book study of 'The Mitten'.

Then, later in January we will move into our units on the Five Senses, Building and finally our Feelings Journals.

CRAFTS & LEARNING CENTRES

Ornaments made with applesauce, cinnamon, and glue are being sent home.

They are not food! It's a scented ornament to place within your home or a drawer.

Some of our learning centres within our classroom are displaying the concepts of sorting and classification, big and little, same and different, shapes, numbers, and letters, transportation and we will be doing crafts galore!

Learning centres are small spaces within the classroom that provide the students with new experiences and introduce them to new topics.

JOLLY PHONICS

We will be working on our letters and phonics and having fun with songs and sounds to develop early literacy skills.

Name identification, fine motor and gross motor skill development opportunities, counting and number identification and calendar time are all areas we will continue to work on. Letters covered so far are s,a,t and i. We will begin working on the sounds p, n, ck and e, and then move onto h, r, m and d.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Dec 7** - Benjamin Tree Farm trip. Am Preschool class:
- **Dec 8** - Benjamin Tree Farm trip. KinderPrep class
- **December 6** - Hanukkah Ends
- **December 13** - Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **December 23** - last day of preschool before holiday break
- **December 24** - Christmas Eve
- **December 25** - Christmas Day
- **December 26** - Kwanzaa
- **January 1** - New Year's Day
- **January 9** - Preschool Reopens
- **January 18** - Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom



We don't want to see you go! Just in case you need it, here is our Withdrawal Form

SUPPORT STAFF

Please note that Natalie, Erin and Miah may work in different classes in January based on their school schedules and our classroom needs.

CONTACT US ANY TIME!

Don't forget, you can reach us any time at waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com.

If you have communications for the teachers, to avoid any miscommunication or lost communications, please use the email above to reach me as drop off and pick up times are very busy!

Happy Holidays!

Love Teacher Tracey

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please keep your email addresses up to date, as all notices, including closure notices are sent by email. If weather is questionable or another situation occurs and class is canceled please keep and eye on your email. Staff plan to go outside in the winter as well, whenever possible, so please be prepared for outdoor play each day.

Please see our [Inclement Weather Policy](#) for more details. Also see the [Active Play Policy](#) and [Playground Safety Policy](#).

FAMILY PHOTO

The children love seeing a familiar face in our classroom! Please send your family picture to Teacher Patty (waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com) so we can add your photo to our Preschool Community Board.

We strive to create a welcoming environment and a sense of community.

BOARD MEETINGS

We have upcoming board meetings on December 13 and January 18 at 7:30 p.m. Feel free to join us! A Zoom link will be sent around prior to the meeting.

A reminder that parents are expected to attend at least one board meeting over the course of the school year.

Please see our parents handbook, updated policies, child guidance strategies, program statement and important links on our website:

www.waterloopreschool.org.



We encourage families to unite with other families from the Preschool and to connect with each other for play dates, car pooling and to work together to help each other when needed.

Great friendships are often built through the Preschool



SPECIALIST VISTS

We are happy to have our speech pathologist, behaviour specialist and our occupational Therapist involved in our centre. Many of you have met our resource Consultant. We are fortunate to have these free services available to us by being a licensed childcare centre in good standing.

They are there to support our families and staff throughout the Preschool years.

We are here to help!

If you have any concerns about your child's development, at any time, please don't hesitate to speak with the teachers about a referral. These are often long wait lists, so it is great to get on the list early if you feel your child needs some support with their development or if the teachers could use some guidance. Please note, if the service requested is not needed when the time comes, you can always withdraw consent. The supervisor can help complete a SNAP referral or you can self refer through this link.

<https://snrcwaterlooregion.ca/referrals/>



SMALL BUSINESSES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Let's support the small businesses within our preschool community! If you have a business you would like included in the newsletters, please email Eliane Sabatino at waterloopreschool.comms@gmail.com.

WATKINS 1868

Teacher Tracey sells quality Watkins Products on the side.

If you are interested in any quality products [check out my website!](#) Non GMO spices, hand soaps, dip mixes, pain rubs etc.

You do not need to order a minimum order as I can deliver any item as part of my order and can have it in time for Christmas!

GLASS CRAFTS

On the side, Teacher Patty makes glass shadow boxes, ornaments, and decal on glasses. If anyone has a custom order please reach out to Patty if you're looking for a beautiful, handmade gift for this holiday season.

PRESCHOOL COOKBOOK

Please email your child's favourite recipe to Teacher Patty (waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com). so we can add at least one recipe to our cookbook per child

Teacher Patty will put this keepsake together for you and is eager to add your family's favourite recipe in this diverse cookbook!

Don't Forget!

We are closed over the Christmas holiday but fees are still charged. For more information on fees, giving notice to withdraw and more, please review our [Parent Handbook](#).



FUNDRAISERS

Our Kernels Popcorn fundraiser will run from Monday November 21- Monday December 5. Each bag will be sold for 3\$ or 2 bags for 5\$. The flavors are Buttersalt, White Cheddar, Say Cheese, Dill Pickle, Cheesy Dill, Salt and vinegar, Jalapeno cheddar, Ketchup, Thai sweet chili, Creamy caramel and Low fat caramel.

Please have your orders and money returned by Monday December 5th.

BENJAMIN TREE FARM

We're heading to the Benjamin Tree Farm on December 7th and 8th. We encourage a parent, grandparent or other grown up to join your child. The AM and PM Preschool classes will be going on Wednesday Dec 7th. WE ask that you be there for 9:20 so we can start at 9:30. If you are not attending please pick up your child at 11am. Please note there will be NO Pm preschool class this day. The Kinderprep class will be going on Thursday Dec 7th. WE ask that you be there for 12:50 so we can start at 1p. If you are not attending please pick up your child at 2:30pm.

CLOTHING LABELS



Please label everything your child brings to school. This will help teachers keep track of personal items and return anything that may be misplaced.

We fundraise with the help of [Lovable Labels](#). Twenty percent of your order supports the preschool! If you have more than one child, we suggest using just your last name so the labels can be used for everyone!



SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Scholastic book orders are back again this year! Flyers will be sent home from school or you can order any time online through [Scholastic Canada](#). Be sure to use our classroom code **(RC167028)** so that we can earn 20 percent in rewards to purchase new books and items for the classroom.

The next book order is due December 23.

