

Waterloo Co-operative PRESCHOOL



Wrapping Up June 2019

It's almost the end of another exciting and productive school year at WCP. As we're wrapping up in the classroom, we're looking back at all the children have accomplished and anticipating the new year ahead. Thanks to all our members for making 2018-2019 so memorable!

June highlights

Board elections will be held June 3 and 4. See page 2 for information about how to cast your vote.

The **KinderPrep** class will be visiting the **Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory** on June 6. Details can be found on page 3.

We have a new online calendar! Visit www.waterloopreschool.org/calendar.

Join us for **graduation** June 19 and 20. Learn more on page 3.

Our next **Open House** is scheduled for June 24 from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in enrolling their child in one of our programs this fall.

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A letter from Teacher Tracey

We have come to our final newsletter of the year! Time has gone quickly. It has been a joy watching your children develop and change over the year. Teacher Patty and Teacher Tracey are very proud of the children and their growth and efforts over the year. So much evolves in just one year of a child's life! We are pleased and grateful to be part of your child's first educational experience.

Hearing test referrals

All children should have their hearing tested before entering school. Visit earandhearingclinic.com for a list of children's specialists. Some private health insurance has coverage for speech and language service. It is always good to seek out any help through private insurance, if available to you.

Dress for the weather! As things warm up outside, it's important to consider sun protection for your child while they're playing outdoors on our playground. Please remember to apply **sunscreen** before coming to school. A **sun hat** and **sunglasses** may also be helpful.

If your child is returning in the fall and requires an assessment referral, now is a good time to put in a request to avoid wait lists next year. Please speak to Teacher Tracey if you have any concerns about your child's development, hearing or speech, including receptive language or social skills, sensory concerns and attentions span issues.

Heading into summer

Come celebrate your child's successes at graduation! Please join us a half hour early on your child's last day of class, Wednesday, June 19 or Thursday, June 20.

If you wish to connect with other families once classes are over, please add your name to the list in the hallway on the clipboard by the cup bin so your email and contact info can be shared with other interested families.

Have a healthy and safe summer! Best of luck to all the children going to school this fall. We look forward to hearing any updates you are willing to share on how things are going. We are going to miss the dynamic that developed this year among our membership. The sense of community and belonging we built this year was very special.

We look forward to continuing to partner with many families who are returning for the 2019-2020 school year. It is wonderful to see so many returning families and siblings! If your child is returning in the fall, please bring back his or her observation portfolio at that time so we can continue to document your child's learning.

If you need to reach me over the summer, please feel free to email waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com.

Love,

Teacher Tracey

Have you considered serving on the WCP Board of Directors?

We are currently recruiting for our 2019-2020 Board of Directors. Being on the Board is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in your child's preschool experience, connect with other parents and build your resume.

As a co-operative, we rely on parents volunteering their time to help operate the school. Except for those who have paid to opt out, everybody will spend some time doing things such as cleaning, administrative tasks, arranging social events, purchasing or IT support. This work is organized and delegated by the Board of Directors.

The preschool cannot operate without a Board, and it does not operate at its best with an incomplete Board.

We're looking for members to fill these roles:

- President
- Vice President
- Operations Officer
- School Improvement Officer
- Administrative Officer

You can expect to spend 15 to 20 hours per month working as part of a friendly team towards the common goal of making WCP the best! Note that Board members are exempt from committee work and yard cleanups. Outgoing Board members meet with their successors to hand over the role and ensure new Board members know what to do.

For more information about any of these roles or to express your interest, reach out to our current president, Carolyn, at waterloopreschool.president@gmail.com.

2019-2020 Board elections

Each year, we vote in the members of our Board of Directors. Elections for the 2019-2020 school year will be held on **Monday, June 3** and **Tuesday, June 4**. All current members are requested to vote. A paper ballot box will be placed outside the classroom. Use the ballot sheets provided to cast your vote. Reach out to Carolyn, our current president, at waterloopreschool.president@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Graduation

Graduation is a time to look back at the year and celebrate your child's growth and accomplishments. Join us for the last half hour of class on **Wednesday, June 19** and **Thursday, June 20** for our WCP graduation. Take some time to mingle with other parents, exchange contact information and share plans for next year. Siblings, grandparents and other family members are welcome!



Come out and play this summer!

The school year may be over, but that doesn't mean you can't stay connected with the WCP community. Join other families Thursdays in July and August from 10 am to 12 pm at Breithaupt splash pad for a play date meetup.

KinderPrep trip to Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory

The KinderPrep class will be visiting the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory on **Thursday, June 6** where we will



be able to see a variety of butterflies and learn about their lifecycle.

On the day of the trip, meet the teachers at 1 pm at the Butterfly Conservatory (2500 Kossuth Road, Cambridge). Children can be picked up as early as 2:30 pm and no later

than 3 pm. Please be sure to send your child with a backpack, water bottle and change of clothes.

A signup sheet is posted outside the red classroom door. The cost for this trip is \$15. Be sure to **sign up and submit payment by Thursday, May 30**. Please note that payment is due when you sign up. Exact change is required.

If you have other questions, please speak with either Teacher Tracey or Teacher Patty. For more information about the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory, visit www.cambridgebutterfly.com.

Final Scholastic orders for the year due June 6

This is your last chance to order before the summer! Visit www.scholastic.ca and use the code "CLIFFORD" to get a free book (\$6 or less). Orders must be for \$30 or more to qualify for this promotion. Orders are due **Thursday, June 6 at noon**.

Looking for more than just books? Scholastic also offers a range of educational materials, such as flashcards, craft kits, games and workbooks. Search "critical thinking and problem solving," "kits," "STEM" and "skills" to explore these exciting projects.

Your Scholastic order supports the preschool by allowing teachers to order free books for the classroom as well as books to give to the children as gifts. If you have any questions about Scholastic orders, please reach out to Michelle at michellemalin@yahoo.ca.



10 ways to keep preschoolers learning all summer

It's easier than you think to fill your preschooler's summer days with playful learning experiences. In fact, with some basic activities, you'll be providing opportunities for your child to develop, grow and learn. And the best part is these activities don't cost a fortune or require too much preparation.

1. Pretend play

Encourage your child to play dress up and make believe. Provide puppets, props and ideas so that she can pretend play.

How they learn: Pretending improves children's vocabulary as they take on the pretend character role, as well as helps develop their self-control.

2. Draw

Provide a space and supplies so that your child can draw and write anytime he desires. Colorful pencils, crayons and markers in baskets, plus blank papers of any size and color will surely entice most children to scribble, draw or write.

How they learn: Drawing is the best precursor to writing. It helps children's fine motor skills and prepares their understanding of written communication.

3. Music

Sing, dance and play! Music helps children develop math skills. Plus, it's just fun. Provide musical instruments like bells and drums, and make your own marching band. If you don't have any bells or drums, raid the kitchen for kitchen instruments and see what "music" you can make there.

How they learn: Music benefits all learning areas, such as language development, and helps increase IQ.

4. Active play

Different from pretend play, active play is all about big movement – running, skipping, hopping, zigzagging, swinging and so forth. Did you know that your preschooler needs 60 minutes of active play a day? So, go to a park or play tag in the backyard. Find lots of ways to move, indoors and out.



How they learn: Research tells us that movement improves our brain functions.

5. Go outside

Speaking of moving outside, don't forget the importance of vitamin D. Kids (and adults) need sunshine and fresh air. Letting them outside is one of the best things we can do for our children's well-being.

How they learn: Outdoor play develops stronger immune systems, improves one's mood and concentration.

6. Busy bags

Busy bags are my favorite for car rides, waiting rooms and quiet time. These are bags that contain thematic, age-appropriate activities for your child to do quietly. For example, a matching-and-building busy bag might include pattern cards and Duplo blocks.

How they learn: Preschool busy bags focus on building, sorting, matching, sequencing, fine motor skills, art and imagination.

7. Manipulatives

Let your child's hands build dexterity and strength with items that can be manipulated, such as play dough, pipe cleaners, Wikki Stix and even LEGO. Set aside an area in your house for manipulative play. Encourage sorting,

Get stocked up on summer craft materials

The craft truck will be at the preschool **Tuesday, June 4** from **11 am to noon**. The teachers shop off the truck every year to supply the classroom with craft materials and equipment. Parents are welcome to shop off the truck as well! Cash and credit cards are accepted.

building, threading, nesting, and identifying. You can rotate the manipulatives so your child stays engaged.

How they learn: By using manipulatives, children are coordinating their brains, eyes, and hands to work together – practicing and improving muscle control.

8. Sand and water

Sand and water play is one of best, least expensive ways for children to learn. Yes, learn. Hide letters in the sand to add alphabet practice. Hide dinosaurs and pretend play paleontologist. Add water to the sand for more exploring and messy mud fun.

How they learn: It may surprise you to know that while children are playing, they're developing their imagination, engaging their senses, learning physics and much more.

9. Books

There is no such thing as too many books. As a teacher, I know that books are essential in the lives of children who are literate and curious. It's well documented that children whose parents read aloud to them are more skilled readers and writers. (Among other things.) Visit the library. Read to your kids. Love your books. It will benefit your kids long-term.

How they learn: Reading to children and allowing them to explore books builds vocabulary, develops listening skills, builds background knowledge about the world, and enhances creativity.

10. Games

Games, card games or board games are wonderful opportunities for learning and developing social skills. Do you have a deck of cards? Then you can play Go Fish and War, two fun learning games for preschoolers.

How they learn: Board games like Chutes and Ladders, Zingo, Hi Ho Cherry-O and Memory all build problem-solving and other important thinking skills.

Aren't you excited about summer now? Look at all you can do to have fun and keep your kids learning. I wonder what you'll do first!

Article by Melissa Taylor, originally published in La Petite Academy blog. Accessed online at www.lapetite.com/blog/2013/07/10-ways-to-keep-preschoolers-learning-all-summer.

Looking for things to do this summer? Visit attractionsontario.ca/coupons for deals from Attractions Ontario.