

# Waterloo Co-operative Preschool



## Falling into Routines October 2019

Autumn has officially begun, and we're falling into routines at WCP. This month, we're learning about farming and the harvest. Preschool and KinderPrep classes are heading to **Steckle Farm** on October 2 and 3. See page 5 for more information.

Nothing tastes more like autumn than a fresh apple! To celebrate the harvest, we're **making apple sauce** at preschool this month. Bring in an apple between September 30 and October 4. We'll make them into sauce October 8, 9 and 10, while also comparing the colours, sizes and shapes of our apples.

### Apples

Away up high  
In the apple tree,  
Three red apples  
smiled at me.  
I shook that tree  
As hard as I could,  
and down came  
those apples.  
Mmm, they were  
good!

Please note the preschool will be closed for **Thanksgiving** on Monday, October 14.

On Tuesday, October 15, the **Toddler class** will begin running for a full two hours, from 9 to 11 am.

**Halloween** is a time for costumes and creativity. On October 30 and 31, come to class in your costume. Be creative and fun! No treats or candy please.

Visit [www.waterloopreschool.org/calendar](http://www.waterloopreschool.org/calendar) for a complete list of important dates.

### In this newsletter

Teacher Tracey's letter	1
Teacher Patty's letter	4
First yard cleanup November 2	4
Steckle Farm field trip	5
Our child guidance strategy	6
Board members needed	7

## Registration is open all year

We still have spaces left in our **PM Preschool** program. This is a great stand-alone class, or it can add two additional afternoons for children already enrolled in KinderPrep. Visit [www.waterloopreschool.org/programs](http://www.waterloopreschool.org/programs) for details about all of our programs. Contact Laura, our Membership Officer, at [waterloopreschool.membership@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.membership@gmail.com) if you have questions or you'd like to enrol.

## A Letter from Teacher Tracey

September was a month of getting to know our new children and wonderful membership. We were very busy completing paperwork and orientations. Please remember to bring your child's shoes and cup (water only, please!) in their backpack and be sure to place their cup in the bin (outside the red classroom door) and their shoes in their cubby. Also be sure your file is complete with any updated information, immunization records, etc. Documentation can be sent to our Membership Officer at [waterloopreschool.membership@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.membership@gmail.com).

Thank you all for your volunteerism and involvement in the preschool. Collaborating as a co-operative makes the preschool a great place to be! Duty parents, we hope you have fun in the classroom and don't find the tasks too

overwhelming. Remember, we are a team – we understand that it takes time to develop a routine and are happy to answer any questions you have.

### In the classroom this month

Toddlers will venture outdoors this month, so you can expect to be on the playground most days. Please remember to wear appropriate outdoor clothing – splash pants are wonderful at this time of year. Preschoolers and KinderPrep will be introduced to our Jolly Phonics program and will begin learning about our first set of letters: S, A, T, I and P. We're also heading out for a field trip this month! See page 5 for more information.

During carpet time, all classes will be reading some great stories like *Pete the Cat*, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, *Duck on a Bike*, *The Little Red Hen*, *Henny Penny*, *Over the River*, *Room on a Broom*, and *When the Leaf Blew*. In the sensory bin, we will explore pouring corn, wood chips or water. For science, we will explore shapes, colors and fall

themes like pumpkins and dress up. We will focus on fine motor development and scissor skills. Toddlers will focus on language development, clarity in speech and gaining further comfort with the teachers as we continue to get to know them. Creating strong relationships will continue to be our main focus.

### Drop off and pickup

Please also be sure to contact the school if your child will be late or absent. If an absence is due to sickness, note any symptoms (rash, fever, vomiting, etc.) so the teachers can track illness in the classroom. You can reach me at [waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com) or by calling the preschool at 519.884.3400 and leaving a message.

During drop off, we ask that you leave children on the playground only if teaching staff are present. Children must be supervised at all time in our outdoor play space. The wooden barriers outside the classroom prevent children from running down the hall when coming out of the classroom. If you're the last one in the hall during drop off, please be sure to close these gates behind you. Any time you may be outside the classroom, you can also help keep our environment as safe as possible by closing the door to the custodian's closet (located just to the left of the bathrooms).

Please kindly be reminded to put in every effort to be on time to pick up your child at dismissal. Children are often distressed when their parent is not right there waiting for them when we begin our dismissal routine. Also remember that diapers are not to be left in the bathroom. Take dirty diapers home with you or dispose of them in the bin by the playground. Thank you!

### Special Me project

At WCP, we embrace the diversity of our preschool community. We value a sense of belonging and expression of self. This year, we would like to explore our diversity by creating a book highlighting the uniqueness of our members and the ways in which we come together as a caring, response group that fosters positive relationships and a sense of community.

To this end, each child will have the opportunity to participate in a Special Me day where they will be given a few minutes of carpet time dedicated to talking about their Special Me Creation page.

- Some things you may want to include on your Special Me page include:
- Your favourite foods or recipes.
- The language or languages you speak at home.
- Your favourite place to play.
- How you address your grandparents.
- Your favourite song or book.
- Something you are afraid or excited about.
- Your favourite thing about preschool.
- Your favourite holiday or tradition.

Watch for your child's Special Me page to appear in their cubby and return to the teachers within one week. Talk to Teacher Tracey or Teacher Patty if you have any questions.

## Volunteers, community partners and supply staff

It's a great pleasure to continue our community partnerships and mentor students while they give us their time and much appreciated help in the classroom. Volunteers have a full orientation and up-to-date files. They are not considered staff and therefore do not count in ratios, but they can help with hand washing, filling up our supply stations, aiding in dishes, set up and attending to the individual needs of children. We value their contribution and help in the classroom alongside the teachers, duty parents and other professionals that form our teaching team. This fall, we're welcoming students from Wilfrid Laurier University. We are also welcoming back Erin, who has worked as supply staff in previous years and is apprenticing in all classes for the full school year as part of her Early Childhood Education certification.

Our membership is fortunate to have a highly qualified team of individuals to serve our population. Community partners you may meet this month include Julie Attack, our resource consultant from KW Habilitation, Susan Butler, an occupational therapist from KidsAbility, and Brad Simpson, a kinesiologist from KidsAbility. Our supply staff include Erin, Kendell and Kelsey – all are experienced and may step in from time to time to help in the classroom.

## Stay in touch

Open communication is essential, so please don't hesitate to email me at [waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com). Although we don't usually answer the phones during the day while with the children, we address voicemail and email messages promptly. If your call is urgent, please call back multiple times to prompt teachers to answer. Keep in mind that pick up and drop off are very busy times. For more lengthy chats, make an appointment or send us an email.

If you have any membership inquiries, contact our Membership Officer, at [waterloopreschool.membership@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.membership@gmail.com).

### Label, label, label!

Be sure to you label everything your child brings to preschool. This will help teachers keep track of personal items and return anything that may be misplaced.

At WCP, we fundraise with the help of Lovable Labels. 20 percent of your order supports the preschool. If you'd like to purchase labels for your child, please visit [www.wcp.lovablelabels.ca](http://www.wcp.lovablelabels.ca).



## Welcome to our student volunteers

We are pleased to welcome students from Wilfrid Laurier University's psychology program this fall. Take a look at our volunteer schedule:

	AM	PM	all day
Monday	Emily	Madison	Erin
Tuesday	Jack		Erin
Wednesday	Emily	Taylor	Erin
Thursday	Nicole	Noor	Erin
Friday	Ushani		Erin

If you have questions about duty schedules, get in touch with Carolyn, our Secretary, at [waterloopreschool.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.secretary@gmail.com). Please note any changes or additions to the duty schedule on the copy pinned to the board outside the classroom.

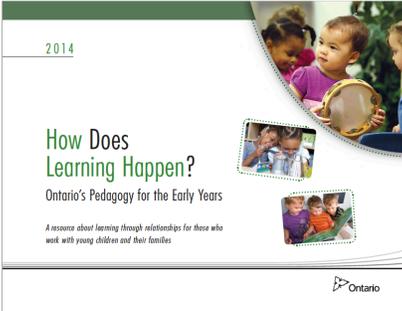
Be sure to watch for important information in your email inbox and on our website at [www.waterloopreschool.org](http://www.waterloopreschool.org). If you're not getting emails or would like to add an additional email, contact our Communications Officer at [waterloopreschool.comms@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.comms@gmail.com). Please also be sure you've taken some time to read the [Parent Handbook](#) which includes our [Program Statement](#) – both documents are available on our website under the Member Info tab. You can also find nutritional information, parenting resources and other helpful links at [www.parentingnow.ca](http://www.parentingnow.ca) and <http://nutristep.ca>.

Best regards,

*Teacher Tracey*

## A letter from Teacher Patty

I am sure you all have your individual goals and hopes as you send your child or children to WCP. Please know that Teacher Tracey and I follow the principles outlined in the document [How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years](#). This document focuses on belonging, well-being, engagement and expression. Recently, as part of our continuous learning and professional development, I also took a course called "Supporting Atypical Development," which focused on these same key areas.



**Belonging** refers to a sense of connectedness to others, an individual's experience of being valued, of forming relationships with others and making contributions as part of a group, community and/or the natural world.

**Well-being** refers to addressing the importance of physical and mental health and wellness. It incorporates capacities such as self-care, sense of self and self-regulation.

**Engagement** suggests a state of being involved and focused. When children are able to explore the world around them with their natural curiosity, they are fully engaged. Through this type of play and inquiry, they develop skills such as problem solving, creative thinking and innovating, which are all essential for learning and success in school and beyond.

Lastly, **expression or communication** (to be heard as well as to listen) may take many different forms. Through bodies, words and use of materials, children develop capacities for increasingly complex communication. Opportunities to explore materials supports creativity, problem solving and mathematical behaviour. Language-rich environments support growing communication skills, which are foundational for literacy.

These four domains support all children's strengths, but also build a foundation that supports future potential and possibilities. *How Does Learning Happen?* asserts that, "Children thrive in programs where they and their families are valued as active participants and contributors." Together, we will support your child in their learning by following this pedagogy. You can read the complete document at [www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HowLearningHappens.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HowLearningHappens.pdf). We look forward to a great year with you and your child.

Teacher Patty

## Wondering about yard cleanups?

We're fortunate to have a wonderful outdoor play space here at Waterloo Co-operative Preschool. In order to ensure the yard remains a safe, clean and fun place for our kids, all members who have not paid to opt out are expected to attend one of two yard cleanups throughout the year.

Our **first cleanup** will take place **Saturday, November 2** from **10 am to 12 pm**. We will be removing weeds and leaves, ensuring toys are clean and safe, and removing hazards from the space. The **second cleanup** usually falls sometime in April, once the snow has melted. As a co-operative preschool, we rely on our membership to take care of essential tasks like these yard cleanups. We all need to chip in to make sure our children get to enjoy everything the preschool has to offer! Reach out to Maria at [waterloopreschool.improvement@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.improvement@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up. We'll see you in the yard!

**2018-2019 financial statements** are now complete. Copies are available in the classroom, or request a copy from Jana, our treasurer, at [waterloopreschool.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.treasurer@gmail.com).

## It's harvest time at Steckle Farm

We're looking forward to our first field trip together! On Wednesday, October 2 and Thursday, October 3, our **Preschool** and **KinderPrep** classes are heading to Steckle Farm to learn about harvest time. You are welcome to join us or drop off your child.

On **Wednesday, October 2**, the AM Preschool class meets the teachers at Steckle Farm at 9:20 am. The tour begins at 9:30 am and pick up at 11 am. The PM Preschool class meets the teachers at 1 pm. Pick up is at 2:45 pm.

On **Thursday, October 3**, the KinderPrep class meets the teachers at Steckle Farm at 1 pm. Pick up is at 2:45 pm.

### What to bring

On the day of the trip, please bring/send a water bottle filled with water, and a small backpack for your child's



necessary items (i.e., diapers or undies). A snack will be provided for your child.

### How to get there

Steckle Farm is located at **811 Bleams Rd in Kitchener**. Parking is accessed off McIntyre Rd. Simply turn off Bleams on to Trillium, make a left at the first street and the farm is just up on your left. Park and walk up the path. Meet us around back at the parking lot. For more information, visit [stecklehomestead.ca](http://stecklehomestead.ca).

### Cost

If you're joining your child on this trip, the cost is \$10. If two adults would like to accompany a child, the cost is \$15. For two children and one adult, the cost is \$15.

Babes-in-arms are free, but please note that Steckle Farm is not accessible for strollers.

If you are unable to join us, the cost for just your child is \$6.50. Please let the teachers know if you are not planning to attend. There is a small market on site where you can wait, if you're not joining us but would like to stay nearby.

Hand in your cash payment to the trip mailbox, located just inside the red classroom door. Please have your permission form and money in by **Friday, September 27**.

We look forward to a fun time of learning at the farm!

## Toddler trip to Shantz Farm

The Toddler class will also get the chance to explore the autumn harvest with a trip to Shantz Farm on Tuesday, October 22. We'll explore a corn maze, take a tractor ride with Farmer Kevin and pick pumpkins!

As it is early in the school year and toddlers are still adjusting to their teachers, we ask that children be accompanied by a parent or another family member. The cost is \$5 per child, and parents are free.

Please arrive at the farm by 9:20 am. We'll start our farm fun at 9:30 and finish by 11 am.

Shantz Farm is located at 1544 Bleams Rd in Petersburg. Follow signs to park in the designated area adjacent to the farm, beside Mannheim Mennonite Church. Learn more about Shantz Family Farm at [shantzfarm.ca](http://shantzfarm.ca).

Permission forms will be distributed by the teachers in the next few weeks.

**Participating in field trips** can be rewarding for both parents and children! If you're attending with your child, please keep in mind that you may be assigned responsibility for other children. Parents will be briefed, in advance, of any individual needs. Each participating parent is required to remain with the class for the duration of the trip. Please, no smoking during the field trip.

## Our child guidance strategy

Whether you're a duty parent interacting with children or a parent wondering about how your child will interact with adults at preschool, you probably have questions about how we help children get comfortable in our classroom. We have a child guidance strategy here at Waterloo Co-operative Preschool which focuses primarily on redirection and positive interactions.

- A child will be redirected to an alternate activity giving him or her the choice between two areas, such as the sand table or work bench.
- Adults will intervene and a child will be assisted in sorting out feelings and aggression. A child will never be left completely alone.
- Under no circumstances will a teacher, assistant teacher or participating parent strike a child, belittle a child, or express themselves in an uncontrolled manner. This applies to duty parents in their parent/child relationship when serving as an assistant in the school. Corporal punishment is prohibited.
- Physical restraint of a child, such as confining the child to a high chair, car seat, stroller or other device for the purpose of discipline or in lieu of supervision, is prohibited, unless the physical restraint is for the purpose of preventing a child from hurting himself, herself or someone else, and is used only as a last resort and only until the risk of injury is no longer imminent.
- Locking the exits of the child care centre for the purpose of confining a child, or confining a child in an area or room without adult supervision is prohibited, unless such confinement occurs during an emergency and is required as part of our emergency policies and procedures.
- The use of harsh or degrading measures or threats, or use of derogatory language directed at or used in presence of a child that would humiliate, shame or frighten the child or undermine his or her self respect, dignity or self worth is prohibited.
- It is prohibited to deprive a child of basic needs, including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding.
- It is prohibited to inflict any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will.

If you have any questions about how your child is managing at preschool, please feel free to speak to the teachers.

## Your child's healthy development

Our teachers are devoted to supporting the healthy development of your child. They draw on a variety of resources to recognize and respond to any issues that might arise.

### LookSee and ASQ

We use two screening tools to help track and discuss your child's development through the year – the Looksee Checklist and the ASQ Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Watch for these tools to appear in your child's cubby, fill them out and return to the teachers. They're happy to discuss any questions or concerns you might have.

### Parent resource library

Borrow social stories, picture cues and other helpful tools. Speak to the teachers for more information about how these resources may be helpful your child.

### SPOT program

We appreciate the support of the KidsAbility's SPOT program. SPOT stands for speech, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and kinesiology, the four areas this program supports. Brad Simpson, a kinesiologist, and Susan Butler, an occupational therapist, will both be visiting our classroom from KidsAbility this fall.

### We're 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. We are pleased to have a team of dedicated professionals working with our children here at Waterloo Co-operative Preschool, and we take pride in how we accommodate individual needs. We encourage you to maintain open communication with your nurturing educators who are focused on building positive relationships with the families they serve.

## Board members needed

Would you like to get more involved in your child's preschool experience? As a co-op, we rely on our Board of Directors to manage our day-to-day operation. We're currently looking for a Communications Officer and an Administrative Assistant.

For more information about these roles, reach out to Vanessa, our outgoing Communications Officer, at [waterloopreschool.comms@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.comms@gmail.com) or Jen Dol, our outgoing Administrative Assistant, at [waterloopreschool.aa@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.aa@gmail.com).

Contact our President, Leanne, at [waterloopreschool.president@gmail.com](mailto:waterloopreschool.president@gmail.com) if you're interested in taking on either role.

### Scholastic orders at WCP

Each month, you'll find Scholastic catalogues in your child's cubby. 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.

To order, visit <https://canadaclubs.scholastic.ca>. You can use the code "CLIFFORD" to get a free book (\$6 or less). Orders must be for \$30 or more to qualify for this promotion.

**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.

If you have any questions about Scholastic orders, please reach out to Michelle at [michellemalin@yahoo.ca](mailto:michellemalin@yahoo.ca).



We're looking for **indoor plants for our classroom!** If you have or come across any child-friendly, non-poisonous plants that could enrich our classroom environment, we would welcome a donation. We have made our playground more natural, and now we want to bring nature into our classroom as well. Talk to Teacher Tracey if you have questions or to arrange a drop off.