



WELCOME NEWSLETTER



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HELLO WCP FAMILIES!

Welcome to our new and returning families!

This newsletter is intended to help prepare you for the start of the school year. We hope you have had a happy, fun-filled, safe summer holiday and are ready to join us during our **staggered start** week (excluding KP classes)

The **week of September 12th**, the Toddler and Preschool children will only attend one day, in a small group, so the teachers can get to know each child. KP will start off in their regular classes.

Please be sure the teachers are informed and prepared to accommodate your child's individual needs by communicating as much information as necessary to ensure safety and a smooth transition for everyone.

We will post allergies and any Individual Support Plans that we create in order to ensure all staff and those interacting with your child are well aware of any limitations, areas requiring support or food & environmental allergens we need to avoid.

STAGGERED START

Mon Sept 12 - 6 preschoolers at a time

Tues Sept 13 -Toddler times: 9-9:45 & 10-10:45am

Wed sept 14 - 5 preschoolers at a time

Thurs sept 15 - Toddler times: 9-9:45 & 10-10:45

Fri sept 15 - remaining preschoolers

Stay tuned and check your inbox for your scheduled staggered start time closer to the AGM

NOTE: KinderPrep starts as a full week

PREVIEW DAY

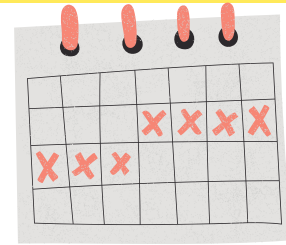
Parents and children are invited to come and see our classroom and listen to a brief intro to the teachers and classroom. Toddler times: 9:00-9:30 & 9:30-10am.

Preschool times: 11-11:30 & 11:30-12. Kinderprep times: 12:30-1 & 1-1:30. Stay tuned and check your inbox for assigned time slot. Zoom meetings may also be booked separately with your teacher

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that our preschool is located on the land traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishnaabe, and Neutral People. We acknowledge their enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge and philosophies with whom we share this land.

YEAR AT A GLANCE



SEPTEMBER

Sept 7 - **Mandatory** AGM 7pm via zoom (see below)

Sept 9 - Preview day

Sept 12 - First day of school!

Staggered start for Toddlers & preschoolers, full start for KinderPrep

Sept 20 until thanksgiving: Toddler class runs from 9-10:30

Sept 30 - Truth and reconciliation day! Wear **orange**

OCTOBER

Volunteer parents start up

Oct 10 - CLOSED for Thanksgiving

Oct 11 - all Toddler classes start the full 2 hours

Oct 12 - Stekkle Farm trip for Preschoolers (9:30am) and M,W,F KinderPrep (1pm)

Oct 13 - Stekkle Farm Trip for Tu, Thur, Fri KinderPrep class (1pm)

NOVEMBER

Nov 28 - CLOSED for province wide ECE PD day

DECEMBER

Dec 7 - Tree Farm trip. Preschool: 9:30am, KinderPrep: 1pm

Dec 8 - Tree Farm trip. KinderPrep: 1pm

Dec 26, 2022-Jan 6, 2023 - CLOSED for Winter break

FEBRUARY

Feb 20 - CLOSED for Family Day

MARCH

March 13-17 - March break
KinderPrep Maple syrup trip (date to be determined)

APRIL

April 7 - CLOSED for Good Friday

April 10 - CLOSED for Easter Monday

MAY

May 22 - CLOSED for Victoria Day

JUNE

June 23 - last day of class

NOTE: Stay tuned for provincial PD day dates to come!

WHAT TO PACK

We plan to spend as much time outdoors as possible throughout the entire school year, so please dress your child for the weather.

It's also a good idea to send your child with a sun hat or baseball cap, and apply sunscreen or bug spray if desired, at home.

We are not able to apply any creams or lip balms.

Please be sure your child uses the washroom and washes their hands before coming each day so they can maximize their time outside.

We ask that Toddlers and Preschoolers pack their items in a large Ziploc bag. A change of clothing, diapers, wipes, indoor shoes and any additional outdoor clothing should be placed in the bag and labelled with your child's name.

We are preparing our KinderPrep students for school! With this being said, we ask that they bring a backpack with them to school each day. Please include a closed, labeled, reusable water bottle and a clean but empty Tupperware type of container that has a lid., also labeled. We will serve the students their snack in the containers each day so they can practice opening and closing their container and returning it to their backpack. The cleaned water bottle and container should return in their backpack each day.

CLOTHING LABELS

All personal items including bags, backpacks, hats, sweaters, shoes, jackets and water bottles need to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

You can order peel-and-stick or iron-on labels from [Lovable Labels](#) and we will receive a small fundraising credit for any orders. The funds collected from the last school year was put back into new books for the classroom.

Attention Parents!

We are looking for a large roll of Newspaper print that will be used as a fun craft to create a child sized body poster! Anyone willing to share can bring this in on preview day



CHECK LIST

- Outdoor Clothing
- Indoor Shoes
- Change of Clothing
- Diapers & Wipes (if needed)
- Backpack with reusable water bottle and container with a lid



SNACK TIME

We promote water on demand at all times and provide a healthy snack half way through the program.

Snacks this year will include things like crackers, rice cakes, tortillas, cheerios, and melba toast. Vegetables such as cucumber, carrots, peppers, mini tomatoes and fruit like apples, bananas, oranges, grapes, berries.



PARENT RESOURCES

Family Compass can help link you to services you may need if you have a concern you want to run past a professional, or are looking for some parent resources..

Parent resources and The Parent Handbook among many other great things are found on our [website](#).

STAY IN TOUCH

Help us to maintain open communication and celebrate your wonderful child!

The teachers want to reach out to you through email, Zoom meetings and the [Seesaw app](#) (watch for your invite soon).

Please be sure to visit the app often to view your child's pictures of interactions, explorations, growth, and development throughout the year.

You can download or print the pictures and make yourself a beautiful keepsake portfolio.

You can also email Teacher Tracey directly (waterloo.preschool.teacher@gmail.com) to request a meeting anytime.

It's also important to keep your personal information up to date with the school.

Please contact us if you need to change your home address, phone number or if there are any new changes such as allergies.

A reminder that no medications can be dispensed unless an emergency plan is in place for the use of an Epi pen or asthma inhaler.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

All families are assigned either a Board role or a co-op role. Co-op roles are described in the parent handbook and are essential to the operation of the preschool.

Examples are cleaning, fundraising, snack, shopper, member assistant, admin. If you are unable to participate in a co-op role you may be able to pay a opt-out fee, although few opt-out spots are available.

Stay tuned and check your email closer to the AGM to sign up for your co-op role



VISION & HEARING

It is suggested that children have their hearing and sight tested by age 4 or before going to school. A child should be seen by an Optometrist even sooner if you think they could be having trouble seeing,

Some of our families have found the [University of Waterloo Optometry Clinic](#) and [Iris](#) helpful when looking for an appointment.

[The Ear and Hearing Clinic](#) in Kitchener is an option if your child needs to see an audiologist.



SCREEN TIME

Our partners at [Kidsability](#) and [KW Habilitation](#) would like us to remind parents that screen time for children should be reduced or eliminated.

Studies have shown the negative impacts of lengthy times spent in front of iPads, tv's, phones and video games.

Screens should be limited to no more than one half hour per day and never during a meal.

Consider fostering your child's communication skills with conversation instead of screen time.

Reciprocal conversations with back and forth contributions are known to enhance child development and vocabulary.





PRESCHOOL COOK BOOK

We want to connect with our families and build a further sense of community by putting together a Preschool Cook Book.

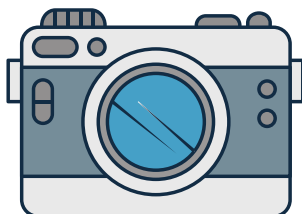
Please contribute your child's favourite recipe so we can add at least one recipe per child.

Teacher Patty will put this keepsake together for you and is eager to add your family's favourite recipe in this diverse cookbook! Recipes can be sent to teacher Patty at waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com

FAMILY PHOTO

Send a family picture to Patty, our assistant Teacher (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.



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

COVID SCREENING

Waterloo Co-Operative Preschool takes every precaution necessary to ensure the safety of our membership during these times.

Every individual must be screened using the **Covid-19 School and Child Care Screening** form before entering the facility every day. This can be found on our website. Results must be emailed to Teacher Tracey every day before 8:45 a.m.

If your child is going to be absent, notify the teachers and fill out the **absence form**

If you are not coming due to a symptom of illness, you must still fill out the screening and send in the failing result.

The screening form will walk you through next steps as directed by public health.

Should there be a positive case at the preschool, you will be notified by phone if you are directly impacted, and by email.

Although masks are not mandatory, we are a mask friendly environment, and masks are encouraged, especially in large gatherings.

Physical distancing is not mandatory, but is encouraged when necessary.

Anyone entering the preschool is encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene, especially before and after eating

ENHANCED AIR QUALITY

Improving indoor air quality is a critical preventative measure, according to the **Region of Waterloo Public Health Unit**.

The classroom is now equipped with a **medical grade HEPA air purifier** (rated MERV-17) to enhance air quality and remove small airborne particles.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Throughout the year, staff will work hard to support and encourage your child with their unique goals and objectives.

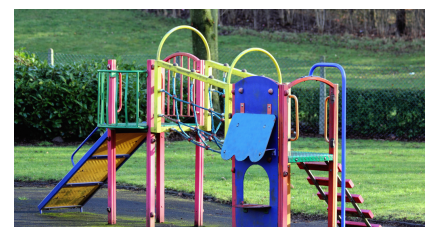
We will encourage full body development from gross motor skills to fine motor skills. We also continue to develop social, emotional, and cognitive skills along with friendship building.

Cutting, pencil grip, and name recognition will be a focus in our Preschool and Kinderprep classes.

FALL ENROLLMENT

Fall enrollment is underway and spaces are filling fast.

If you know someone who might be interested in securing a spot please sure to contact our membership officer today.



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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is responsible for the governance and operations of the preschool.

The board meets monthly with the Supervising Teacher to ensure the preschool is operating smoothly, the budget is met, parental concerns are addressed, and we are compliant with licensing and ministry requirements.

2021-2022 BOARD MEMBERS

Samantha Kowalski is the **President** and will chair board meetings and oversee the operations of the preschool. Samantha is an artistic swim coach and head of that program for 10 years. She is also a teacher at the Waterloo School Board. Her daughter Myla, will join the Toddler class.

As Vice-President, **Rebecca Bovbel** is responsible for personnel and assisting the president as needed. Her daughter Lucy, is in the Toddler class this year.

Steve Lavigne is the **Secretary**. Steve will take the minutes at board meetings and will organize parents into co-op roles. His daughter, Sophie, will be starting in the Toddler.

Britney Stewart is the Membership Officer. This is Britney's second year with the board. She helps with registration for all preschool classes and supports the treasurer and bookkeeper with tuition payments. Her son, Liam, will be in the Kinderprep class this year.

Eliane Sabatino is the **Communications Officer**. Eliane creates newsletters and communicates information to the preschool membership. Eliane's daughter, Cecilia, is in the Kinderprep class.

Chelsea Thorne is the **Operations Officer**. She works with the member holding the Fundraising Co-op role. Chelsea is also the liaison person with Emanuel United Church. Chelsea's son, Chance, will be in the Preschool class this year.

BOARD MEETINGS

All families must attend at least one board meeting.

Please watch for the notification with a Zoom link.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday September 7th at 7pm**.

All families are expected to attend this informative meeting., it is **mandatory**. We will cover important details about enrollment, daily routines and what to expect once classes begin.



JOIN THE FUN!

We are always in need of parent participation on our board of directors and in co-op roles.

We currently have vacancies for Treasurer, Administrative Officer, school improvement officer and member at large.

If you're interested in filling one of these positions, please reach out to the President.

SEE YOU SOON!

We are looking forward to a year filled with fun, learning, and discovery.

We can't wait to meet you and see you on the first day of class!

*Love Teacher Tracey
and Teacher Patty*

