



WATERLOO CO-OPERATIVE PRESCHOOL | SEPTEMBER 2023

WELCOME NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME 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. We are readily available by email should you have any questions that pop up! Please do not hesitate to contact Tracey or Patty at any time or request a parent-teacher Zoom meeting with us at any time throughout the school year.

The **week of September 11**, the Toddler and Preschool children will only attend one day, in a small group, so the educators can get to know each child. KP will start off in their regular classes.

Please be sure the educators 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.

PREVIEW DAY

Parents & children are invited to come and see our classrooms before the start of the year! We hope you will join us for our *parent-child preview day* on **Thursday, September 7**. You will receive your visit time during the Welcome Meeting on **September 6**.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

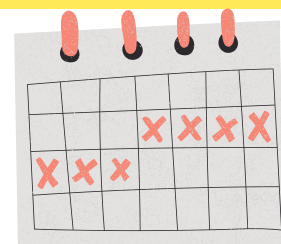
We acknowledge that our preschool is situated on the land that is the traditional home of the Chonnonton, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. We extend our respect to all First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples for their past and present contributions to this land. We also recognize their enduring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

DID YOU KNOW?

Waterloo Co-operative Preschool has been incorporated as a non-profit organization since 1972!



YEAR AT A GLANCE



SEPTEMBER

Sept 6 - **Mandatory** Welcome Meeting (AGM) 6:30pm via Zoom
Sept 7 - Preview day
Sept 11 - **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 9 - CLOSED for Thanksgiving
Oct 10 - all Toddler classes start the full 2 hours

NOVEMBER

Nov 28 - CLOSED for province wide ECE PD day

DECEMBER

Dec 25, 2023-Jan 2, 2024 - CLOSED for Winter Break

FEBRUARY

Feb 19 - CLOSED for Family Day

MARCH

Mar 29 - CLOSED for Good Friday

APRIL

Apr 1 - CLOSED for Easter Monday

MAY

May 20 - 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 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.

Please do not send any creams, lip balms, bug spray or other items that can be applied before or after our short program. 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. Please include a change of clothing, diapers or pull ups, wipes and indoor shoes and label the bag with your child's name. This bag as well as the indoor shoes will remain at the preschool.

Toddlers and Preschoolers are also to bring a clean, empty water bottle to school with their name clearly written on it.

The bottle will be sent home with them after each class.

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. Please do not store food or medications in your child's backpack without ensuring that the staff is well aware of the contents.

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.

CHECK LIST

- **Outdoor Clothing suitable for each day**
- **Indoor Shoes**
- **Change of Clothing**
- **Diapers & Wipes (if needed)**
- **labelled reusable water bottle**
- **Backpack with reusable water bottle and container with a lid (KP class)**

MORE ON STAGGERED STARTS

The week following our *Preview Day*, our staggered start week begins! During *the week of September 11*, your child will only attend once (for Toddler and Preschool classes only), and in a small group so the educators can get to know each child!

Please be sure the educators are informed and prepared to accommodate your child's individual needs by communicating as much information as necessary to ensure safety and a great time for everyone! The children's Developmental Domains form is a great tool that we use to get a good snapshot of your child and it is included in your registration package. Please fill it out and ensure the educators get it. Any emergency plans and, ISPs will be done before the children can be left without a parent. Parents who feel they must remain onsite on their child's first day can plan to stay in the parking lot and the educators will be in touch if we need to contact you.

Our Toddler class will be broken down to a 45-minute staggered start in order to have intimate time to get to know each other. You will be assigned a time slot on either *Tuesday, September 12* or *Thursday, September 14*. Starting the following week, the Toddler class will run from 9:15-10:30 until they have settled in enough to manage a full class. The educators will maintain open communication during this time. Full class time (9-11am) and outside time will begin after Thanksgiving.

For our Preschool classes, children will be assigned one day to attend class for the full time during the week of September 11th. Regular classes will begin the week after (Sept 18-22). If you feel a shorter visit would be better for your child in the beginning please just mention it to the educators, as this often is a great strategy to ensure an easy, comfortable transition. Some families drop off later and pick up early. Please discuss what is best for your family with educators Tracey and Patty.

Note: KinderPrep classes will start as the full duration the week of *September 11th*.

MEET OUR TEAM OF RECE'S

Educator Tracey, *Supervisor*, **Educator Patty**, *Assistant Supervisor*
Educator Jen, *Lead Educator*, **Educator Jessica**, *Lead Educator*, **Educator Erin**, *Assistant Educator*.
Educator Kelsey, *Assistant Educator*
Support staff: *Natalie, Miah*

Throughout the year, staff will work hard to support children with their unique goals and objectives to help child development, social skills and other skills. Cutting, pencil grip, and name recognition will be a focus in our Preschool and KinderPrep classes. We will encourage full body development from gross motor to fine motor, and work on social, emotional, friendship and cognitive skills with all.

We post allergies and any Individual Support Plans and Emergency Plans that we create to ensure all staff and those interacting with your child are well aware of any limitations, areas needing support, or foods/environmental allergens we need to avoid.

STAGGERED START SCHEDULE

Mon Sept 11 - 6 preschoolers at a time

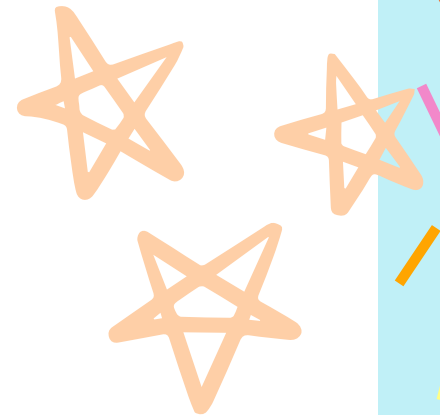
Tues Sept 12 - Toddler times: 9-9:45 & 10-10:45am

Wed Sept 13 - 5 preschoolers at a time

Thurs Sept 14 - 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!



SNACK TIME

We provide water on demand at all times and provide a healthy snack half way through the class. Snacks this year will include things like Graham crackers, rice cakes, tortillas, Cheerios, bananas, Triscuits, vegetables such as cucumber, carrots, peppers, mini tomatoes and fruit like apples, oranges, grapes, berries. You can find the menu listed in the Parent Handbook or on SeeSaw. If your child has any allergies or sensitivities please be sure the Educators have this listed on their registration form and any Emergency plans and medications are provided in advance of them starting. Please do not send snacks or juice or milk with your child unless there is a dietary requirement listed and discussed with the Supervisor. We have several allergies in our program and do everything we can to prevent exposure to allergens.



STAY IN TOUCH

Your satisfaction is important to us.

We hope this will be a great experience for your family. Help us to maintain open communication and celebrate your wonderful child!

You will be able to reach out to the educators by email, through Zoom meetings, and in the [Seesaw app](#) (watch for your invite soon).

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

You can download or print the pictures and make yourself a beautiful keepsake portfolio. Look out for your invite

Please email Teacher Tracey directly (waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com) or Teacher Patty (waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com) to request a meeting anytime.

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

Please contact the Administrator 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

FAMILY PHOTO & WCP COOK BOOK

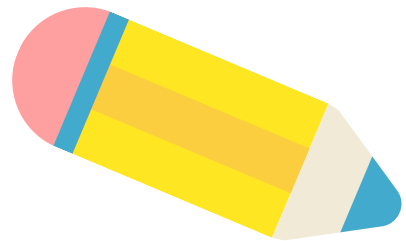
Please send a family picture to Patty, our Assistant Supervisor at waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com so we can add your photo to our Preschool Community Board. We strive to create a welcoming environment and embrace a sense of community. We want to connect with our families and build a further sense of community by putting together a Preschool Cook Book! Please contribute your child's favourite recipe so we can add at least one per child! Patty will put this keepsake together for you and is eager to put YOUR family favourite in this diverse cookbook!

SCREEN TIME

Our partners at **KidsAbility** and **KW Habilitation** would like us to remind parents that screen time for children should be reduced if not eliminated if possible.

Consider fostering your child's communication skills with conversation over screen time, especially during a meal!

Reciprocal conversations with back and forth contributions to meaningful conversations are known to enhance child development. You can see more information on screen time tips [here](#).



AS THE YEAR BEGINS...

Please be sure to keep up-to-date information on file with the school for any new addresses, cell numbers, or personal needs or allergies. No medications can be dispensed unless an emergency plan is in place for the use of an epi pen or asthma inhaler.

Waterloo Co-operative Preschool takes every precaution necessary to ensure the safety of our membership. We continue to have strong healthcare practices and ensure that only healthy individuals enter the facility every day. If your child is going to be absent, please notify the educators each day of absence and indicate if illness is a factor. If they are not coming due to a symptom of illness please inform the educators as well by completing the absence form found [here](#).

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from Waterloo Co-operative Preschool must give one calendar month's notice and agree to pay for one full calendar month following the submission of the withdrawal form, found [here](#). Please note that no partial month's fees will be reimbursed for withdrawing before the end of the month.



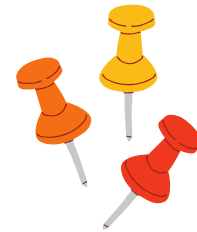
PARENT RESOURCES

Waterloo Co-operative Preschool partners with Kidsability and KW Habilitation. Special needs resources are available for any child in licensed care that needs it. We have a Resource Consultant who is happy to help us accommodate needs that arise for the educators and children.

Please remember that It is suggested that children have their hearing and sight tested by age 4 before going to school, and anytime if they are having troubles looking at books, are coming too close to things, or are tripping.

Some local optometry clinics include:
[University of Waterloo Optometry Clinics](#)
[IRIS Optometrists and Opticians](#)

Some local hearing clinics include:
[Ear and Hearing Clinic](#)
[Canadian Hearing Services](#)



Family Compass or Front Door are available for your family to 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 . Check them out here:
<https://www.familycompasswr.ca/en/index.aspx#>
<https://www.frontdoormentalhealth.com/parents/>

Here are [some additional resources](#) outlined by the Region of Waterloo for various areas of concern



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.

MEET THE BOARD

Matt McKarney will be moving on from Operations Officer to be the **President of the Board** this year. As President, Matt will organize and chair Board meetings, facilitate and engage in communications between the Board, teachers, and families as necessary, and work directly with other Board members and teachers to ensure the effective operation of the Preschool. His daughter, Eleanor, will be in the Preschool class this year.

Eliane Sabatino is with us as **interim Vice President** until a new member is selected. Her daughter attended the preschool, in the KP class during the 2022/2023 preschool year when she served as VP on that board. As VP, Eliane composes membership surveys, is head of staff personnel, leads in contract renewal and is on the executive board committee. Once a new board VP is selected Eliane will move into the Community advisor board position.

Ella Weber is the **Membership Officer**. This is Ella's first year with the board and second year as a member. She is the point of contact for families who have questions about transferring programs (ie. Toddlers up to Preschool) as well as general inquiries from current members. Her daughter, Daisy, will be in one of the Preschool classes this year.

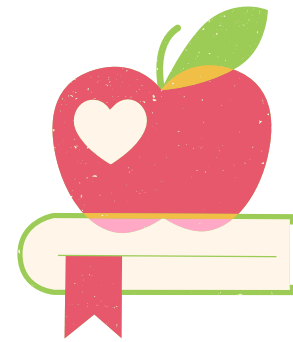
Meg Burns Dolson will be the **Operations Officer**. This is Meg's second year with the board. She helps manage grant applications for special projects and oversees school-wide events and fundraisers. Her son, Lochlan, will be in morning preschool this year.

Ekaterini Resurreccion is the **Secretary**. Eka is a new member of the board. She is currently a student at Conestoga College. As a secretary, she will be responsible for preparing, updating, and distributing the classroom volunteer schedule. She will also ensure classroom volunteers have submitted all paperwork and have had their volunteer training. Her son, Jake, will be in preschool class this year.

Wes Koch is the **School Improvement Officer** and this will be his first year on the board. He helps with preparing and monitoring a schedule for school cleaning by the School Improvement Committee, as well as purchasing all supplies required for cleaning and building maintenance, maintaining monthly inventory and checklists and coordinating, attending and managing the spring and fall cleanups each school year. His twin boys, Liam and Calvin, will be in the KinderPrep classroom this year.

Taylor Marskell is the **Communications Officer**. Her role includes preparing the monthly newsletters, social posts, and all communications for the membership. Her son, Fox, will join the Preschool class this year.

Kathy Muratis will be supporting in the role of **Member-at-large**. Kathy will focus on assisting with special projects and committee work where help is needed. Her son Theo, is 3 and will be returning to the Preschool Program.



JOIN THE FUN!

We are always needing parent participation on our Parent Board of Directors & on committees. Please consider joining the Board and sharing your talents and skills.

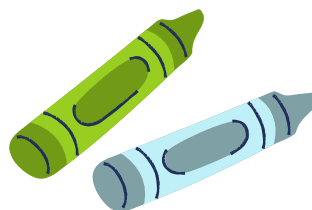
If you're interested in filling one of these positions, please reach out to our President.
waterloopreschool.president@gmail.com

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
& Teacher Patty*



All families must attend at least one board meeting.
Please watch for the Zoom link notification in your inbox.
We will hold our Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, September 6th**, from **6-8pm**.
All families are expected to attend this informative meeting. It is **mandatory**.
We will cover essential details about enrolment, staggered start, daily routines and what to expect.

SPONSORSHIP CORNER

A warm thank you to our sponsors for sponsoring Waterloo Co-operative Preschool! Your generous funding will allow us to provide great programming, fun field trips, and hands-on learning for our children.

RESILIENCE WELLNESS CLINIC

Our goal is to provide you with a personal and positive Massage Therapy experience and educate you with proper home care so that you have the tools to achieve and maintain your most optimal health.

Massage Therapy is beneficial for relieving muscle tension and associated pain, reducing feelings of stress, increasing circulation for improved healing, and improving range of motion. We look forward to helping you with your healthcare needs.

<https://www.facebook.com/resiliencewellnessclinic>



THEMUSEUM

THEMUSEUM is a new kind of experiential museum – one with maverick ideas and unexpected intersections. They offer diverse exhibitions, programs and events for families and are dedicated to presenting fresh content from around the globe in unique and immersive ways.

Featuring five levels, THEMUSEUM has a little bit of everything and is designed to showcase art & technology at play! Explore their new exhibition Beyond Human Limits and Waterloo Regions' first digital immersive gallery, EYEPOOL, during your visit.

Enjoy THEMUSEUM's exhibitions all year long with a Family Membership! You'll save money on summer camps, birthday parties and special events while getting to enjoy other cultural destinations like the ROM, the Ontario Science Centre, and London Children's Museum for free!



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KELLY REALTY GROUP

KELLY REALTY GROUP

Family oriented , client focused, results driven - Over 30 years of trusted service in Waterloo Region & surrounding areas. As a father & daughter team with traditional values, we strive for the highest quality in our service. We believe in providing knowledge & excellence to our clients to allow them to make educated decisions when it comes to their real estate ventures. We look forward to helping you make your real estate dreams a reality!



Samantha Kelly, Realtor®

519.616.2930

asalebysamantha@yahoo.com

Paul Kelly, Broker

519.212.1200

pkelly139@yahoo.com

www.peakrealtyltd.com

PHONICS DAD

At WCP, we support early reading skills in many ways. New this year, we're partnering with Phonics Dad to help parents reinforce these skills at home. With fun and engaging tips and tricks, Phonics Dad shows parents how to introduce Phonics to children as young as 3. Use promo code WCP2023 for 20% off. WCP also gets back 20% of every sale using that promo code, so share with friends & family. For more information, follow [@PhonicsDad](https://www.instagram.com/PhonicsDad) on Instagram or talk to our staff.





Help us continue to make WCP a Place to Grow

Want to sponsor a great organization in your community?

Waterloo Co-operative Preschool is looking for sponsors to help us continue to nurture the inquisitive minds of tomorrow! Choose one of our sponsorship levels or donate the amount of your choice for a tax receipt.

Bronze \$200
Company name & description in our newsletter & on our website

Silver \$350
Company name & description in our newsletter, on our website, promotion via social media stories

Gold \$450
Company name & description in our newsletters, on website, promotion on social media via stories & grid post

Platinum \$600+
Company name & description in our newsletter, on website, promotion via social media, company logo included on our banners

Contact our President for more information:
waterloopreschool.president@gmail.com

