



DECEMBER & JANUARY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS



A NOTE FROM SUPERVISOR 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. A few notes:

- Please ensure the Minister parking spot is left open at all times and that wheelchair spaces are left open for those needing them. We do know parking can be tight. Please be on time for pick up and make it quick so others can use the spots if waiting for one. Dorset street can also be used for parking if able to walk to the road.
- Please ensure FULL supervision of children in the parking lot, as there are many vehicles backing up and movement happening on the busy lot. It can also become quite slippery at times in the winter, please take extra caution. Please do NOT use the lawn space at the top of the retaining wall alongside our walkway. This is Not our property and is not checked for safety concerns. It is not a safe place to play or to allow your child to climb.

- Please be early or on time for pick up. We do allow for early pick up as needed but cannot accommodate late pick ups. If you are going to be late, please make arrangements for an alternative pick up person and let the school know by email. Please view our late pick up policy in the [parent handbook](#)

Please Note: It is imperative that children only attend if well. It is essential to report any illness within the family to the supervisors and that families keep us informed of any illness using our [reason for absence form](#). It has been a big year of illnesses as children build immunity to the many bugs that erupt in groups. We consult public health regularly with guidance on how to manage any outbreaks. At WCP, we do daily and weekly cleaning to help maintain a safe and healthy classroom environment.

DID YOU KNOW?
If we do not receive a completed *Reason for Absence form* on the days a family will not be joining us, we must follow up with their emergency contact. [View our Safe Arrival policy here](#)

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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 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](#).



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!

On the last week of school before the holidays it will be Pajama Week! Let's have some fun while wearing our cozy pajamas! Parents and grandparents are welcome to join for the last half of class for a sing song and mingle on Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22 for each class!

WCP adopts up to date research on best practices and staff attend professional development events. We are learning more about and embracing the use of the "environment as a 3rd teacher" and the value building positive relationships and engagement with parents. The staff reference the research document "How does learning happen" when implementing planned and spontaneous activities with the children. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-does-learning-happen-ontarios-pedagogy-early-years>

Laurier and ECE 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 mid January until April.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Dec 4** - Last day for candle orders
- **Dec 4&5** - Benjamin Tree Farm field trip!
- **Dec 7** - Hanukkah begins
- **Dec 15** - Hannukah ends
- **Dec 19** - Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
- **Dec 22** - Last day of before holiday break
- **Dec 24** - Christmas Eve
- **Dec 25** - Christmas Day
- **Dec 26** - Kwanzaa begins
- **Jan 1** - New Year's Day/Kwanzaa ends
- **Jan 8** - Preschool reopens
- **Jan 16** - Board Meeting, 6:30pm



The *KinderPrep* children have demonstrated their early literacy skills as they build on their understanding of letters and what they look like, sound like, numeracy and correlating numbers and counting. We continue to work on proper pencil grip and use of scissors.

The *Preschool* classes have enjoyed songs like *Insy winsy spider*, *twinkle twinkle little star* and other songs, crafts and small group activities. They recently discovered our musical toys and are enjoying making music as a group in room #2

The *Toddler* group has settled in so nicely! They are enjoying their outdoor time and engage well in the various activities set out for them. Parallel play is common at this age as they work independently alongside their peers.

They will slowly move into more cooperative Play as they grow. The children have gained comfort with their educators and volunteers within the classroom. It is nice to see them following the daily routines with ease!

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

Applesauce and cinnamon with GLUE ornament gifts being sent home, this is not food! It's a scented ornament to place within your home or a drawer. Happy Holidays!

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. Building with magna blocks and playdough have been very popular this past while!

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.



CONTACT US ANY TIME!

If you have communications for the educators, to avoid any miscommunication or lost communications please email Patty and Tracey as drop off and pick up times are very busy!
Or you can book a meeting at any time with us
waterloopreschool.teacher@gmail.com
or Patty
waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com

*Love Supervisor
Tracey*

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please keep your email addresses up to date, as all notices and closure notices are sent by email to the membership. If weather is questionable or another situation occurs and class is canceled please keep an 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.

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.



★ Parents who are interested in joining the class to share their musical talent with the children to please reach out, we will have a sing song last day before winter break and any parent who wants to bring musical instruments to help make it fun is very much welcome!

BOARD MEETINGS

We have upcoming board meetings on December 19 and January 16 at 6:30pm. We would love you 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



Parents who wish to do classroom committee as their volunteer work are welcome in the classroom starting in December for 2-3 shifts each month (if available). Our secretary will be in touch with those who have completed their full orientation, policy review and ISP/emergency plan sign offs to schedule you in when you are available. We are again in need from April to June for extra shifts as we lose our Laurier and ECE students at that time.



SPECIALIST VISITS

We were happy to have our Behaviour specialist and our Occupational Therapist and Rec therapy involved in our centre. Many of you have met our Resource Consultant Julie Attack. We are fortunate to have these free services available to us by being a licensed childcare setting 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 our supervisors about a referral. There 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 educators 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/>



We are still accepting donations Wayside, a nonprofit organization that works out of the facility upstairs from the preschool!
For more information, visit:
<https://www.waterloowayside.org/>

COZY-UP WITH WCP'S CUSTOM CANDLES

We've partnered with a local maker to create three custom candles inspired by the children at WCP: Cinnamon Snuggles (cinnamon scent), Tree Farm Fun (pine), and You Are My Sunshine (orange + ylang ylang).

Our hand-poured candles feature a natural coconut-soy wax blend, 100% essential oils, and cotton wicks. Available in 6 or 8 oz sizes, they're cute as a button just like our preschoolers, and will make the perfect gift for grandparents, family members, stocking stuffers, or just to stock up to keep your home cozy this winter.

The best part? This is a fundraiser - proceeds go to purchasing supplies, activities, and equipment to enhance the children's experience at Waterloo Co-operative Preschool!

Available while supplies last. Order by December 4 to receive your candles in time for the holidays:

<https://forms.gle/BFagkTYXe9wXzjXWA>

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.



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](#). 20% of your order supports the preschool!



PRESCHOOL COOKBOOK

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

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

WE'RE A CO-OP

As a cooperative preschool, we value and depend on the work of our families to keep the preschool running smoothly and thriving! We have a wide variety of tasks and roles where we require support and we ask for a commitment of approximately 2 hours a month. If you have not yet been given a role, or if you have questions about your role, please contact the Membership Officer (Ella) by email waterloopreschool.membership@gmail.com

BENJAMIN TREE FARM

We're going to Benjamin Tree Farm! December 4th morning Monday children and Tuesday morning toddlers are welcome to join the Benjamin Tree farm trip! Please meet at Benjamin Tree Farm at 9:20am and be prepared to stay with your child for the trip, dressed for the weather until approximately 11am. No siblings or strollers can come on the trip and it is a guided tour with outdoor walking. The playground on the hill is not part of the trip and if families wish to use this space please do so after 11am and at your own risk as it is not rated by our standards for under age 5.

On December 5th at 12:50pm KP and Preschool Room #2 can meet at Benjamin farm until approximately 2:30. The same guidelines as above apply for this trip.

There will be no classes at the Preschool on these 2 days as all educators will be on the field trip. This will be your class these days. Please choose either the Morning of Dec 4th or the afternoon of Dec 5th as your class time unless you are in multiple classes and choose to go both days. If you have any questions about this trip please email Patty at waterloopreschool.asstteacher@gmail.com

**We will need 2 parent volunteers who have room in their vehicle to bring a small potted tree back to the preschool, so we will have one for each room. Please let Patty know if you can help!*





HOW DOES YOUR CHILD LEARN?



OUR GOAL

Our goal is to learn about the development of cognition and language in infants, toddlers and children!



OUR STUDIES

- Take under 30 minutes to complete
- Are set up like games or shows
- Come with prizes or draw entries
- Are offered online, at-home or on-campus



OUR LABS

- Lab for Infant Development and Language
- Developmental Learning Lab

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU PARTICIPATE IN OUR STUDIES!

FOR CHILDREN 0-8 YEARS OLD



babylab@uwaterloo.ca



<https://bit.ly/3FjDdaA>



519-888-4567 ext. 33332



ALL OF OUR STUDIES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND RECEIVED ETHICS CLERANCE THROUGH A UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD.



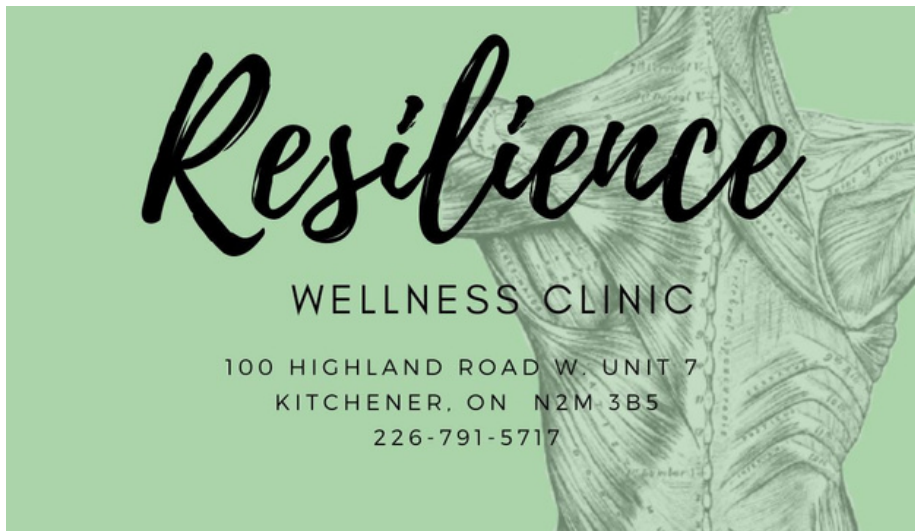
SPONSORSHIP CORNER

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.

Whether it's dealing with separation anxiety or easing the transition from home to preschool, the National Association for the Education of Young Children has a wealth of resources available for parents.



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!



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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 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

