



May 2024

Year End Picnic

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our 2023-2024 school year! Now it's time to celebrate the wonderful and memorable year that we have had together. On **Tuesday, June 11th** is our **Year End Family Picnic!**

Our **Year End Family Picnic will begin at 5:30pm.** All family members and friends are welcome to attend, and we invite current families and new families who are joining our St. John's Community in the fall.

Erick Traplin will be here and starting his show at 6:00pm. We will be celebrating with pizza and cake!

The cost per adult is \$8.00 and the cost per child is \$5.00 and we ask that you bring your own reusable plates and water bottles. You will also need a picnic blanket or lawn chairs as this event will be outside on the lawn if the weather cooperates.

A link to sign up will be emailed out at the end of May.

We hope to see everyone that night! (*if you are not able to attend due to cost, please speak to Christine)



We are closed on Monday, May 20th, for Victoria Day!!

Outdoor Family Engagement Night: Come Experience Outdoor Learning with Us!

Come rain or shine we will be hosting an outdoor play event for families.

On Thursday May 2nd we will hold our event outside on the preschool playground from 4pm-6pm (unless there are severe thunderstorms). Have the whole family come prepared to get wet and messy while you play. We will be offering six different stations: art/creative area, literacy, mud kitchen/messy play, games, checking out the worms and of course a snack. We would love to showcase and have you explore what your children are experiencing in our outdoor space. You will learn about some of the benefits of outdoor play and ways to support your children in outdoor play at home.

Please drop by any time between 4pm-6pm and join us for this hands-on experience! There is no registration required to attend this event.

International Day of Families

Every year on May 15th, the United Nations International Day of Families reflects the importance the international community attached to families and their role in development.

As Early Childhood Educator's we follow "[How Does Learning Happen, Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years \(2014\).](#)" This is the description they give about families and the one we strive to achieve through every interaction with you and your child. "Families are composed of individuals who are competent and capable, curious and rich in experiences. Families are experts on their children. They are the first and most powerful influence on children's learning, development, health and well-being. Families bring diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. Families should feel that they belong, are valuable contributors to their children's learning, and deserve to be engaged in a meaningful way (p.7).

We would like to celebrate our families here at St. John's!

Please bring in or email to [Kim](#) your family pictures so that we can display them all in the hallway here at St. John's.

Happy International Day of Families!



Mother's Day– May 12th



Traditionally Mother's Day is a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. Today we still celebrate Mothers along with other significant humans who care for children, families, and the world around us. We feel mothers are, but often don't have to be related biologically. We honour all mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, special friends, and anyone who plays a nurturing role in our community.

Maple Pizza Project

One day last month we had pizza for lunch because the lunch lady was not able to make our lunches due to our power outage. This exciting pizza lunch led to a project about pizza. The children were very interested in the different toppings and what the children liked to eat on their pizza. Allison helped the children to create a chart with different types of pizza toppings, and the children used their photo to vote for what topping they liked the best. We used our math skills to total up the numbers with cheese and pepperoni being the clear winners with the most votes. Allison helped the children write a letter to Christine with our findings and Christine has ordered a pizza lunch for the Maples children for Friday, May 3. Oak lunch children will join the maples for pizza lunch May 3rd. We are looking forward to this special lunch!

Preschool Playground:

We are working on fundraising for the revitalization of our preschool playground. In the centre you will discover a fundraising tree that will track the progress until we reach our goal. Come in and check it out!

Starting in September 2024 you are welcome to do monthly donations through your pre-authorized Kindertails account.

Garage Sale Fundraiser:

Our board of directors has planned a community garage sale on **Saturday May 25 from 9am to 1pm** at Mary Allen Park. You are welcome to drop off any donation items from May 21 to May 24 in the Chapel Space. The money raised from all the donated items will go towards the playground fund.

You are welcome to join on May 25 at Mary Allen Park – you never know what amazing treasure you will discover.

St. John's Swag:

As another fundraiser, you can visit <https://st-johns.myspreadshop.com> where you can purchase adult and child St. John's Swag. All proceeds will go to the new playground.

Sunscreen:

We are seeing warmer days, and we will be spending more time outdoors on the playground. Please ensure that you apply sunscreen on your child before bringing them to school in the morning. If you arrive at school and have forgotten to apply sunscreen, we have a spare bottle on the playground that you can use.

If your child attends the 6-hour program, please apply sunscreen before dropping your child off in the morning. You will also need to supply a minimum SPF 15 sunscreen, labelled with your child's name, that will be kept here so the educators are able to apply it to your child if the UV is above 5 in the afternoon.

Staying to Play on Seedling Playground:

If you are choosing to stay and play on the seedling playground at the end of the day, we just ask that you help your child to clean up before going home. The educators leave the playground set up and ready for the children to play the next day but when you don't clean up, our educators need to clean up before starting their program. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Donations

We are putting a call out for donations of Kleenex and plastic or cloth bags. If you can donate either, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.



Parent Survey

Thank you for completing the parent survey. We greatly appreciate your input and the time taken to complete this survey as your feedback is vital in creating and maintaining a safe and positive learning experience for all children and families at St. John's.

The survey results will be compiled online by an anonymous survey program, forwarded to a member of the Board of Directors, and summarized in a report. This report will be shared with the rest of the Board, the Director and all the Educators. Results for the survey will also be shared in our next newsletter.

Thanks again for your time, we value your comments and feedback.

Staying Connected

We are hoping we can connect families before all the graduates go off to big school in September. We are also trying to connect returning families over the summer months along with what classes they will be in next year, either half day morning preschool or our 6-hour program. Your information will only be shared with participating families. Perhaps it will be nice to see a familiar face!

If you are interested in sharing information with other families, please specify the following and send to [Kim](#):

- **Your child's name**
- **Your name and email or phone number you would like to share**
- **Name of the big school or class they will be in next year at St. John's**

Community ECE Appreciation Event for Our Staff

On Monday May 13th Early Childhood Educators around the region will be attending the appreciation night. Educators will be treated with a guest speaker, dinner, and door prizes. The Educators are looking forward to this evening together and networking with other educators from around the region.

Thank you to [All Corporate](#) for donating to this event!

Morning Drop Off

A reminder to all our families that our programs begin at 9:00am and we can not have children in our care of the educators until this time due to our licence from the ministry. Parents/Guardians are welcome on the playground but just need to stay with their children until 9am on the playground. You will see the educators moving around the outdoor space, but they are ensuring the playground is safe and setting up amazing activities for your children to explore throughout their morning here at St. John's. We know that as parents you very busy and have places to go but we ask that you are mindful of the time and give the educators the space/time to finish their morning set up. Thank you.

September Fees:

All families will move over to pre-Authorized payments through Kindertails.

Just a reminder that all returning families are required to pay their September 2024 fees by **June 10th. All fees are non-refundable after that date if you withdraw or change your days.**

If payment is not received by June 10th through Kindertails, your child's spot will not be saved. Any changes will be effective for October 1st, 2024. Your September invoice will be available on June 1st on the Kindertails App.

Your security deposit paid at the beginning of the year will be applied towards your June 2025 invoice.

All returning families will need to review and complete their enrollment in Kindertails.

From the Board of Directors

After 5 years of being the school president and 6 years on the board we are really sad to say goodbye to Melinda. We are also sad to say goodbye to Lynnette our school Secretary. Thank you both for your amazing dedication to St. John's!

We will be voting in our new school president and Secretary at our AGM on May 15th, 2024.

You are all welcome to join us at our annual AGM on: **Wednesday May 15th, 2024, from 7pm-8pm.** We will close the 2023 budget and vote in new members for the 2024-2025 school year.

We also need new parents to join the Board for the next school year. If you are interested please reach out.

Educators Updates

Christine will be away on holidays May 21st – May 28th. If you need any assistant in the office, please contact [Kim](#).

Educator Heather will also be away on holidays May 10th to May 17th.

Play in Rain

Please remember your child's raingear when bringing them to school in the morning. We would like to get outside as much as possible now that the warmer weather is here. Waterproof boots, coats, and splash pants can be left in cubbies so that we always have the option for fresh air. Even in the rain!!





St. John's Christian Nursery School

May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lunch & Snack Week 1			1	2 Outdoor Family Engagement Night	3 Pizza lunch 	4
5 Lunch & Snack Week 2	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Lunch & Snack Week 3	13 Community ECE Appreciation Evening for Educators	14	15 AGM with the Board of Directors 7-8pm	16	17	18
19 Lunch & Snack Week 4	20 Victoria Day (school is closed)	21	22	23	24	25
26 Lunch & Snack Week 1	27	28	29	30	31	
September fees due by June 10th.						