

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

## May 2025

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
St. John's Nursery School

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL IS 40  
& LUTHER MANOR IS 50!

40<sup>th</sup>

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR  
40TH AND 50TH ANNIVERSARIES!

50<sup>th</sup>

WE ARE HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL AND LUTHER MANOR ON

**SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 2025**

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN 10:00 AM AND 2:00 PM

AS WE CELEBRATE THESE WONDERFUL MILESTONES

- RECONNECT WITH OLD FRIENDS
- VISIT WITH PAST EDUCATORS
- BRING YOUR PORTFOLIO/ ALL ABOUT ME BINDER WITH YOU
- BRING A PAST PHOTO AND A CURRENT PHOTO OF WHAT YOU ARE UP TO NOW TO HANG IN OUR HALLS
- TOUR THE CHILDCARE CENTRE AND LUTHER MANOR HOME TO SEE WHAT HAS CHANGED
- FOOD TRUCKS IN PARKING LOT
- COFFEE, REFRESHMENTS AND LIVE MUSIC FROM FORGET ME NOTES BAND IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

22 WILLOW ST. WATERLOO.

CELEBRATION & RECOGNITION OF BOTH MILESTONES WILL OCCUR DURING THE 10:30 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT TRILLIUM LUTHERAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, 2025.

### Dates To Remember

**May 3rd** - St. John's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**May 11th** - Mother's Day

**May 14th** - Annual General Meeting 7:00pm

**May 15th** - International Family Day

**May 19th** - School is Closed for Victoria Day

**June 10th** - Year End Picnic

**June 16th-20th** - Last week of School for the summer

### Snack and Lunch Menu weeks

April 28 - May 2 = Week 4

May 5-9 = Week 1

May 12-16 = Week 2

May 19-23 = Week 3

May 26-30 = Week 4

## YEAR END PICNIC

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our 2024-2025 school year!  
Now it's time to celebrate the wonderful and memorable year that we have had together.  
On **Tuesday, June 10th** 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.

This year will be a little bit different, you will need to bring a picnic dinner for your family to enjoy and we will provide some light snacks and fruit. Please bring a blanket or lawn chairs as this event will be outside on the lawn if the weather cooperates.

Erick Traplin will be here and starting his show at 6:00pm. There is no cost to attend this event.



We hope to see everyone that night!



## Mother's Day– May 11th

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.



## International Family Day



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 Educators 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).

Here at St. John's we value the families we serve each day. We hope that your family feels a sense of belonging when you enter our school and your child's classroom.



## 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 bottles on the playground that you can use.

If you have not done so already, please log into your Kindertales app and sign the new Sunscreen Consent form. This will give the educators consent to apply sunscreen throughout the morning and afternoon as needed. St John's will supply Ombrelle sunscreen with a minimum SPF 30.

## 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.

If you are interested in sharing information with other families, please specify the following and send to Marianne;

- **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**



## New Loft in Maple



With some of our fundraising dollars, we were able to purchase a new loft for the Maple room. This new loft will add to our indoor play space and we are excited to add this addition to the room. If you are interested in having a loft at home, maybe you would like the one that is currently in the Maple room. Please talk to Christine.

## Community ECE Appreciation Event for Our Staff

On Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> Early Childhood Educators from 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.

## Board Update

We are sad to say goodbye Jonathan a who has been our school treasurer for over 5 years . Thank you for being a part of our board of directors and your amazing dedication to St. John's!

You are all welcome to join us at our Annual General Meeting on: Wednesday May 14th, from 6:30pm-7:30pm. We will close the 2024 budget and vote in new members for the 2025-2026 school year. This meeting will be held at the Nursery School in our upper room.

We would like to ask if any new parents would like to join the Board for the next school year. We are looking for a new Treasurer on our executive. If you are interested please reach out to Christine.



## MMR Immunizations

With the Measles in the region, some families are choosing to have their children vaccinated early with their MMR vaccine. Please email Kim [supervisor@stjohnsns.ca](mailto:supervisor@stjohnsns.ca) a copy of your child's updated immunization records so that we have it on file.

Thank you

## Playing in the Rain

We are excited to announce St. John's has invested in Muddy Buddies for all the children. Muddy Buddies are a full waterproof suit to go over children's coats and winter gear to keep them dry while playing outside in all the weather elements.

Please log into your Kindertales account to complete the Muddy Buddy Rental Program. Once this is completed we will size your child for their Muddy Buddy to use during the remaining school months. The rental cost is a \$35 deposit that will be returned in June when you return your Muddy Buddy. We don't want cost to be a barrier for any family to participate in our Muddy Buddy Program and have financial support to ensure every child can rent a Muddy Buddy. For children that are returning in September, you will return your Muddy Buddy in June and we will resize for a new one in September. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Muddy Buddy Rental Deposit will be billed through Kindertales

## Visit from Eastwood Highschool Students

An Eastwood Highschool family studies class is coming to visit us! Their class is part of the Ontario Family Studies Curriculum. It is also known as the 'Working With Children' or ECE prep course. It is a class of 21 senior students (grade 11 and 12).

Students that are interested in taking Early childhood Education are strongly encouraged to take this course, as it is a prerequisite for entry into the Conestoga College early childhood program.

This class will be coming for a field trip to St. John's on Friday May 30th as part of their final project. The project includes a tour of our program, some observations of educators engaging with children, asking questions about development and milestones. . Students will not have permission to take any photos of children while visiting.

## Playground Update

Thank you so much to all our families for your fundraising donations this year. We are still working on our landscape designer for playground changes, but in the interim we will be adding some enhancements to our outdoor spaces.

We will be installing shade sails for the preschool playground. This will provide more shade on different areas of the playground to keep the tarmac areas cooler.

Educator Matt has been very involved with teaching the preschool children how to play different kinds of sports. We are purchasing some Astro Turf to cover a space on the preschool playground, where the children can run and play on a grass-like surface, instead of the pavement.

The seedling playground will be receiving a fresh topping of mulch that will add to the fall surface for our risky play activities.





# St. John's Nursery School Fees

Starting September 2025, St. John's will be moving to a daily fee schedule that will be invoiced monthly based on the number of days of operational days.

## **2025 Daily Base Fees**

Program	Hours of Care	Base Daily Fee
Toddler ½ day	9:00am-12:00pm	\$20.32/per day
Preschool ½ day	9:00am-12:00pm	\$13.81/per day
Preschool ½ day with lunch	9:00am-12:30pm	\$18.74/per day
Preschool 6-hour day	9:00am-3:00pm or 9:30am-3:30pm	\$22.00/per day (CWELCC daily max)

St. John's is closed for all statutory holidays, 2 weeks at Christmas and 1 week at March break. Families will not be charged for those non-operational closure dates.

There is no refunds or discounts for absenteeism for sick/vacation days or any unplanned closures.

We require 1 month Security Deposit to reserve your child's space.

## **Non-Base Fees and Deposits**

Non-Base fees	Cost	Details
Key Fob Deposit	\$10/per key	Refundable when key fob returned.
Muddy Buddy Deposit	\$35 for the year	Families can opt in to rent a St. John's Muddy Buddy for the school year.
NSF Fee	\$20 per NSF	
Late Pick Up Fee	\$10 every 15 minutes	
Late Payment Fee	\$10	Payments received after 10 <sup>th</sup> of the month.
Fundraising Plan	Any amount monthly	Families can opt in to donate a small amount monthly towards our fundraising plan.

## Starting School in Canada 2025

### For Newcomer Families with Children 3-6 Years Old

In Starting School in Canada we will share resources and information to help prepare you and your child for the transition to the school system in September 2025.



Language Groups	Dates	Times
Arabic	<b>Mondays</b> July 14, 21, 28 August 11	1:30 - 3:00pm
Tigrinya	<b>Tuesdays</b> July 15, 22, 29 August 5	1:30 - 3:00pm
Rohingya	<b>Wednesdays</b> July 16, 23, 30 August 6	1:30 - 3:00pm

**Parents** will come together to explore various topics, including Canadian school expectations, local professional support such as EarlyON and Settlement Workers in Schools, and resources to use when you have questions about your child's development such as Waterloo Region Family Network and Eye See Eye Learn.

**This program is virtual** and you will be sent an invitation to confirm your participation. Info sessions will be held on Zoom.

To register, contact your **School Settlement Worker** or scan the QR code.

\*Registration closes after the first session of each series.



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Phone: 519-741-8585 ext. 3001  
Email: [earlyyearsinfo@ytr.ymca.ca](mailto:earlyyearsinfo@ytr.ymca.ca)  
[earlyyearsinfo.ca](http://earlyyearsinfo.ca)

Settlement Workers in Schools  
Phone: 519-742-8220  
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[ymcathreerivers.ca](http://ymcathreerivers.ca)



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Spanish	Thursdays July 17 and 24	1:30 - 3:00pm
English	Fridays July 18 and 25	1:30 - 3:00pm

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& Ashley Biddiscombe  
presents

## Parent Resource Series

Changing How Parents Are Supported

## Communication Resources

Communication is so much more than verbal.

Join this parent led session to have a hands on experience with communication resources such as speech devices (Proloquo2go) and literacy devices. As well as learn ways you can use pecs, flash cards and visual schedules at home to help with regulation, anxiety, independence, self esteem and more!

When: May 9, 2025

Time: 7pm-9pm

Location: The Beechwood Brainers

572 Weber St N Unit 2 Waterloo, ON N2L 5C6

To register e-mail:

[biddiscombe.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:biddiscombe.ashley@gmail.com)