

JUNE 2025



# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

## Pride Month

We are looking forward to celebrating Pride throughout the month of June. This is an important way for us to be inclusive of all families and welcome everyone to be who they are.

You are welcome to show your pride along with us as we dedicate a special colour to specific days in June.

June 3 - We will hang our Pride Flags on the playgrounds!

If you have these colours please wear them on:

June 4 - **RED**

June 5 - **Orange**

June 6 - **Yellow**

June 9 - **Green**

June 10 - **Blue**

June 11 - **Purple**



June 12 - We will have our own Pride Parade and take the children for a walk around the neighborhood (wear your Rainbow Colours)

## Dates to Remember

- **June is PRIDE Month**
- **June 10** - Year End Picnic 5:30-7
- **June 13** - Parent Coffee chat 10:30-12:00
- **June 15** - Father's Day
- **June 16-20** - clean out your child's cubby and take home all personal belongs.
- **Friday, June 20** - Last Day of School for the summer

## Year End Picnic

**Our Year End Picnic is just around the corner!**

You are invited to join our year end family picnic on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00pm. Please bring your own picnic dinner/snacks and a blanket to sit on. St. John's will be offering snacks of granola bars and fruit.

Erick Traplin will be here to perform some of his wonderful songs and this will be a time for you to socialize with your child's educators and other St. John's families. Let's celebrate the wonderful year we had together.

**This is a free event. No RSVP needed.**

Everyone is welcome!

## Weekly Menu

Copies of our menus can be found on our website and on the hallway board across from the kitchen door.

- June 2-6 week #1
- June 9-13 week #2
- June 16-20 week #3



# Pride Month

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the children and Educators will hang the Pride flag together on both the Seedling and Preschool playgrounds to show our support, acceptance and to let everyone know that we welcome to everyone into our community, and everyone has a place at St. John's.

The Tri Pride parade will be at Willow River (Victoria Park) in Kitchener on June 7th from 12pm-8pm. "Pride" is a celebration of people coming together in love and friendship despite shared difficulties, and supporting the right for everyone to be proud of who they are. Pride month is about acceptance, equality, celebrating the work of the LGBTQ+ people, education in LGBTQ+ history and raising awareness of issues still affecting the community.

For most of history, and still today, people who identify as part of the queer community have had their human rights withheld, have endured violence, discrimination, hate, and much more. Many people who are struggling with their identity, gender, or who they love, may feel the need to hide or be ashamed of that part of themselves.

That is why we raise the pride flag and celebrate across North America in June. To show ally-ship, support and love to the LGBTQ+ community.

The Progress Pride Flag recognizes the importance of centering voices that have historically been left out of our conversations. It is now the flag most commonly used by the 2SLGBTQ+

The original Multi-Coloured Rainbow Flag was designed by artist Gilbert Baker in 1978 in San Francisco. Each colour of the rainbow has a different meaning. Red represents life; Orange, healing. Yellow is for sunlight, Green represents nature, Blue is for Peace and Harmony, and Purple is for spirit.

Artist Daniel Quasar wanted to create a Pride flag that showed forward movement and better representation and acknowledgement of the community for whom it is flown. In 2018 he created the Progress Pride Flag. The flag's black and brown stripes represent marginalized LGBTQ communities of colour, community members lost to HIV/AIDS, and those currently living with AIDS. The chevron represents a need for forward movement, and the blue, pink and white of the trans flag represents members of the transgender community.

The ever-evolving nature of the pride flag shows the progress within the queer community itself, as well as the celebration of how far the community has come.



## Thank You

### *A huge thank you and congratulations to our volunteer Doreen on 10 years of service at St. John's.*



Doreen has been a great help around the school, she helps in the classrooms and in the office. Doreen, you are so warm and compassionate, and we can't say enough thanks for what you add to St. John's every time you are here.

A BIG thank you also goes out to all the parent volunteers this year who were washing laundry, and making playdough for us. We could not do this without all of your help. Please know you are appreciated and are a valuable part of our community.

## Food 4 Kids

A big thank you to all our families and the members of Trillium who donated applesauce and goldfish crackers to Food4Kids. These donations help to feed children in need around our community.

Want to say thank you to your child's educators? You can say thank you without gifts, we would like you to consider bringing in a donation of a jar of peanut butter for Food4Kids. This organization is near and dear to our hearts and we would like to be able to help them out with their summer food drive.



## Peaches (Office Fish)

Peaches, the office fish, needs a summer home. If your family would like to take Peaches home and care for them over the summer, please let Christine know. This is a lovely way to add a pet into your home without the long term commitment, as you can return Peaches in September.



## Parent Coffee Hour

Our final parent coffee chat for this school year will be held on Friday, June 13 from 10:30am to 12:00pm in Christine's office.

Susan Butler is an Occupational Therapist, who will be here to discuss toilet learning and getting ready for school. We hope you are able to join us.

## Playing Outside

We are planning on spending most of our time outside and that means lots of waterplay! If you can please send extra clothes or quick dry shorts/shirts, it would be appreciated as the children love the water. Also, this is a great time to use your **Muddy Buddy**, so please keep it in your child's backpack!





## Parent Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to everyone for completing our Parent Satisfaction Survey. We had approx. 50% of families complete it. We use this tool as a means of collecting data and create goals based on the results. Your feedback is foundational in making decisions around the school.

There was lot of positive feedback for our educators, and we will share all your wonderful comments with them. From the survey it was apparent the educators are what make St. John's a wonderful place for children. Thank you to all of them! We also created some action items based on the survey results:

**Parents find it hard to know what week the menu is on** - Solution is that we will now add the weekly menu rotation to the newsletter.

**Parents find the newsletter hard to read on mobile devices** - we will be implementing hard copies of the newsletter for families, and are looking at mobile viewing options

**Oak room door is hard to open** - Door handle has been fixed

**Parent Connection Day was hard to attend due to lack of childcare** - We plan to offer childcare while parents attend educator meetings next year

**Parents want communication on indoor/outdoor days** - Kindertales has a SMS alert option that we can utilize. Families have the option to turn on SMS alerts on their Kindertales account. We will use this feature starting September to notify families if it is an indoor day.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. This means a lot to us and really helps us to improve on our program and the needs of the families.

## AGM UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM.

We would like to say goodbye to the Treasurer Jonathan who has been on the board for 5 years. Thank you to Jonathan for all of your support and dedication to St. John's.

Please help us welcome our new Treasurer, Sarah.

At the AGM we accepted our 2024 audited financial statements. We ended the 2024 year with a \$51000 surplus. This surplus will be kept in our reserves for future capital projects and spending. Under the new CWELCC Funding plan we no longer are provided one time grants for repairs and maintenance projects and need to save for those upcoming and sometimes unexpected costs.

In the past some of those one time funding projects allowed us to build our sunshelter, install a new sink system in the kitchen, purchase lofts and tables and equipment. We now need to be strategic is saving for those upcoming projects. Copies of our AGM and year end financials are available outside the office.



## Returning Families

If you're an in-house family returning to us in September, we need to you to log into your Kindertales account and ensure all current information on file is correct ie allergies, emergency contact info. We also have uploaded the newest version of our parent handbook on our website and Kindertales which includes some new policies for next year. Please review it. We ask that you upload a recent photo of your child to Kindertales as well. We will use this photo to create their cubby tag for the new school year.

**A reminder that any cancelations AFTER JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> or over the summer** - your security deposit is non-refundable. Any changes to your enrollment will then be reflected on your October invoice through Kindertales.

Please keep your key fob and muddy buddy over the summer. If you have not picked up your child's muddy buddy, please see Kim or Marianne in the office. If cost is a barrier, just check off rent with financial support in Kindertales and come pick one up. You never know, it may come in useful over the summer months.



## Fall Open House

On Thursday, August 28th, 2025, we will be hosting a fall open house for returning families. Please hold this date so that you and your child can come and visit the school, meet their new Educators, find their cubbies, and see how their classroom is set up before we begin school.

Time slots survey of when to attend the fall open house will go out over the summer months, this allows Educators to focus on one family at a time.

## FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is to honour one's father, fatherhood and the parental bond father's share with their children. Fathers aren't necessarily related biologically. We honour all fathers, brothers, uncles, grandfathers, special friends, and any who plays a nurturing role in our community.



**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
Day**

## End of Year Photo

We have a last day of school at St. John's sign that is hanging in our hallway at the school entrance. For the week of June 16-20 we will have this sign, along with the photo booth outside in the grass area, so you can take some year end photos of your child.





## Being Together

We have so many tasks and administrative duties throughout the day, along with taking lots of photos and documentation. For the month of June, we are asking all the Educators to put down the iPads and just engage in play and not worry about any documentation in the month of June. As Educators, we want the final weeks with the children to be meaningful and uninterrupted. Educators will do any final prep on your child's portfolio this month before it goes home for the summer.

## Families Leaving St. John's

Any families leaving will need to return their **key FOB(s) and Muddy Buddy** to us the last week of June. Please remember to get back fobs from other family members, or spouse's key chains. We will return your deposit back when you return your key fobs. Some families have asked if they can donate their key fob money back to the school and YES you can. If you would like to do that, just let us know.  
Thank you.

## June Fees

### Families leaving:

Your last month security deposit will be applied to your June invoice. If you made changes to your enrollment since your deposit has been paid, the difference will be billed. You should see a credit on your final invoice

### Families returning:

Your June 2025 fees will be invoiced as regular, as your security deposit has been moved as your last month security deposit for next year

## Portfolio Binders

Portfolios will be sent home the night of the picnic or the following week if you are unable to attend that evening. These are great keep sakes and a way for you to see all the documented learning that happened throughout the year. If your child is returning next year, we ask that you please save it and bring it back in September. Feel free to add to the portfolio over the summer of activities you do together. This is a great way to build conversation when we start back in the fall.



## Last Day of School

**Our last day for the 2024-2025 school year will be on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. We will miss everyone and we would like to wish all our graduates best wishes as they start their new adventures. For the children and families returning to us for the 2025-2026 school year, we are looking forward to seeing you in September.**