

ST. JOHNS NEWSLETTER

October 2026



Important Dates to Remember

October 12 – School Closed for Thanksgiving

October 17 – Family Engagement Event
9:30am to 11:30am (outdoors)

October 19 – School Closed for Professional Development Day
(no fees charged)

October 21 – ECE Appreciation Day

October 26 – Parent Coffee Chat on Childhood Anxiety

October 29 and 30 – Wear Orange and Black. Please, no costumes at school.

Reminder to Report Absences by 10am

Report your child absence by 10:00am by emailing admin@stjohnsns.ca
This is part of our safe arrival policy.
Thank you

Snack and Lunch Menu

October 5–9 on WEEK 1
October 13–16 on WEEK 2
October 20–23 on WEEK 3
October 26–30 on WEEK 4

Snack and lunch menus available on our website and posted on our parent board.

Family Walk and StoryTime

The educators have planned an amazing family event. We invite you and your family to join us on Saturday, October 17th from 9:30am to 11:30am here at the school. We ask that everyone come dressed to enjoy the time outdoors no matter the weather. There will be a fall scavenger hunt, along with story time and cider tea.

Re-Love will also be open and we ask families to bring any items that they would like to donate to a clothing swap. You are welcome to go through the items and take what you need for the upcoming winter season.

We hope everyone is able to join us for a morning of fun and friendship!

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

A reminder to check out the schedule and make playdough/collect laundry on your week. If you are interested in helping out with laundry, we could use a few more volunteers with this task. If you have any questions or you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Marianne at admin@stjohnsns.ca

Thank you!

How We Document Learning

Documentation of learning will be visible throughout the classroom, in the hallways and inside your child's portfolio.

Each child will receive one piece of personal documentation in their portfolio each month. Please feel free to take your child's binder home occasionally to view what they have been learning. You are welcome to add to their portfolio as well with photos and stories about what you are doing together at home.

The staff will also be sending out a weekly update through the Kindertales App to show what has been happening in the classroom or on the playground throughout the week.

Monthly Fundraising

Thank you to all the families who have opted into our fundraising program. Through your generous donations this year, we will raise \$5500 to go towards school improvement projects. If you have not opted into the fundraising program and you would like to, please reach out to the office. Thank you so much for continued support of St. John's.

Board of Directors

Thank you to the new members who joined our Board for this year.

Our executive committee:

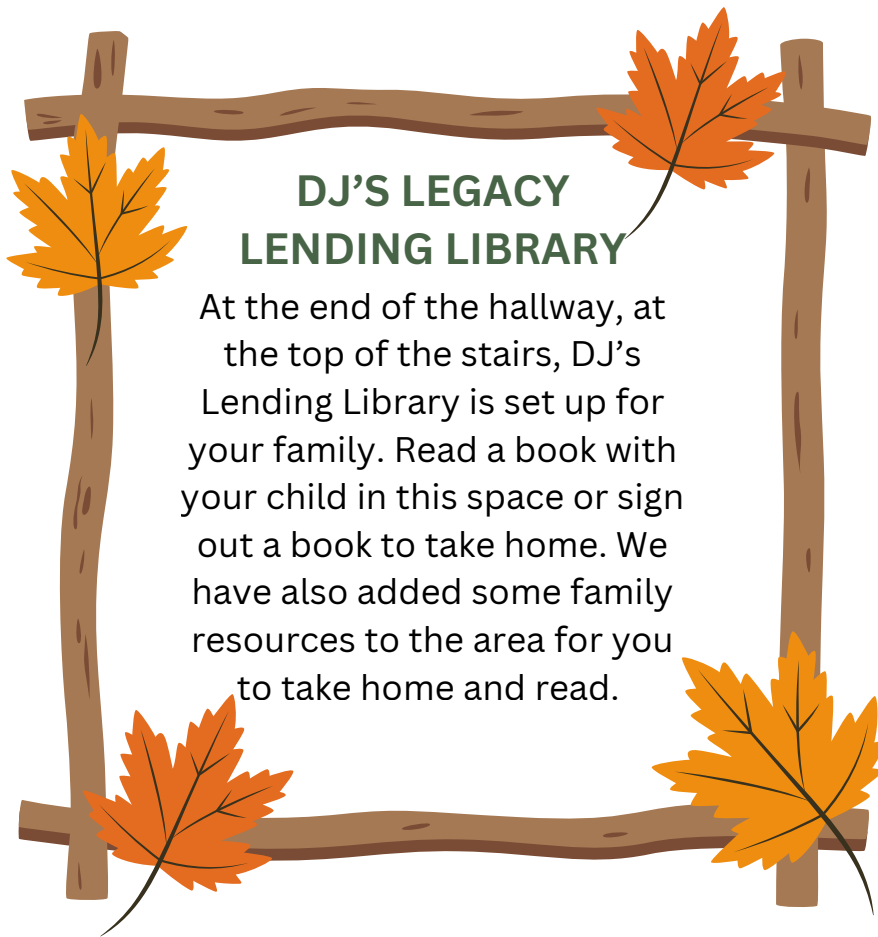
Sarah Whyte – President

Allie Forte – Vice President

Sarah Klassen-Rempel – Treasurer

Rebekah Ludolph – Secretary

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, October 21 @ 7pm in person.



DJ'S LEGACY LENDING LIBRARY

At the end of the hallway, at the top of the stairs, DJ's Lending Library is set up for your family. Read a book with your child in this space or sign out a book to take home. We have also added some family resources to the area for you to take home and read.



Literacy



Literacy experts say that children need to hear 1000 stories before they can begin to read themselves. Storytelling should come from the eyes as much as the mouth (FOX 2008).

Literacy... Right from the Start

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aXDC8l2uuU>

Dr. Jean Clinton, shares the importance of reading, singing, playing, and talking with babies, right from the moment they are born for them to reach their full potential. It does not stop with babies; it continues throughout one's lifetime!



ECE Appreciation Day - Wednesday, October 21st



ECE Appreciation Day is coming up on Wednesday, October 21st. This is a day to recognize the great work that Early Childhood Educators do everyday for children and families. Here at St. John's we have amazing, dedicated educators who make this place extremely special.

To help us celebrate our wonderful educators you will be receiving an envelope in your child's cubby. Please complete what is inside and return the envelope by Friday, October 16th to the office.



STUDENTS



We are pleased to welcome seven Conestoga College students who are currently training to become Early Childhood Educators and completing their placements here at St. John's.

We take great pride in mentoring these students and welcoming them into the field of early learning and care. Their time with us provides a valuable opportunity to learn, grow, and gain hands-on experience as they begin their careers.

Please join us in welcoming all of our new students! When you see them around the school, be sure to say hello.



Vedant
M,T - Maple



Prince
Th,F - Oak



Katie
Th,F - Office



Sydney
M,T - Oak



Savannah
w,Th,F - Maple



Karnaner
M,T - Seedling/Maple



Harneet
W,Th,F - Seedling/Oak



Parent Coffee Chat

We will be hosting a parent coffee chat on Monday, October 26 from 9:15 to 10:30am here at the school.

Aimee will be here to talk about Childhood Anxiety.

Please see flyer attached for more details.



Fall Food Drive

We have set up a Take & Give Box, a community container created to support members of our St. John's community who may need a little extra assistance with food throughout the year.

The container is located at the main entrance of the school. We invite families and community members to help keep it stocked by donating non-perishable food items.

If you or someone you know could use a little extra support, please feel free to take what you need.

Give when you can. Take what you need. Help keep our community cared for.



Black and Orange Days

On October 29th and 30th we will be having black and orange days to celebrate Halloween. Come to school wearing your orange and/or black! We ask that no children wear costumes to school as the costumes often inhibit their play and washroom routine. On those days, please refrain from bringing any treats/candy, or goodies from home to share as we do have many food allergies and restrictions.



Hopes and Dreams Tree

Thank you to all the families and staff who have added a leaf to our Hopes and Dreams Tree so far. If you have not had a chance to add your hopes or dreams for your child to our tree, please help yourself to a leaf located in the basket on the small table beside the tree. Once you have had the opportunity to add your hopes or dreams, tie your leaf onto the tree.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Tuesday, September 30th

Please join us in wearing something Orange on Tuesday, September 30th to help educate people around you and promote awareness in Canada about residential schools and the impact it has on Indigenous communities. The educators here at St. Johns have been on a long educational journey to learn more about indigenous ways of teaching, learning about the culture and ways that we can support the 95 calls to action. We start our meetings every Friday afternoon with a personal land acknowledgement. Staff take turns writing and reading these personal land acknowledgements. We incorporate the Dish with One Spoon practice while on our playground. "Take what you need, always leave some for other, and keep the dish clean."

This year we will be reading stories, learning to jig and felting.

Where will these conversations take us?

How can we begin to understand?

What will my children have questions about?

Hear is what this author Monique Grey Smith has to say;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebOJ_IMCVvk





COMMUNITY SERVICES

Telephone: 519-575-4400

TTY: 519-575-4608

www.regionofwaterloo.ca

February 27, 2026

Dear Parents,

Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) and Early Years staff support children during one of the most important periods of development. Their work is both rewarding and complex, requiring ongoing learning to ensure high-quality, responsive care for all children.

To support the growth, well-being, and professional expertise of the Early Years workforce, the Region of Waterloo Children's Services is coordinating two Professional Development (PD) Days in 2026. These opportunities allow educators to come together, reflect on their practice, and enhance the quality of programming across Waterloo Region. We are writing to inform you that child care and EarlyON programs across the region are encouraged to close for these PD Days to allow staff to participate.

St. John's Nursery School will be closed

Monday, October 19, 2026: Closed for the full day

We understand that making alternate arrangements for these PD Days may be challenging for your family. We greatly appreciate your understanding and support of your educators and their efforts to provide quality care and programming for your children. Please contact chsadmin@regionofwaterloo.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cardow

Director, Children's Services

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Cardow".

STARTING THE DAY WITH A SMOOTH DROP OFF



1

KEEP IT BRIEF!

Your confidence that they will have fun at childcare makes them feel safe. If you linger too long they may think you are staying. Pump them up that they are brave!

2

MAKE A ROUTINE

Start a predictable good bye ritual and use a similar script each day. ("I know you will have a great day today, I can't wait to see you after playtime. I love you!"). Try practicing the routine at home by acting it out with toys or puppets during play.

3

READ!

Try reading "the kissing hand" at home and say "if you miss me you can kiss me" and kiss their hand goodbye. (Available on youtube too!)

4

VISUAL AIDS

Show your child a picture of the preschool, or playground before you leave the house in the morning. This helps to prepare them for the transition.

5

SHOW YOUR TRUST!

After you say goodbye to your child, you can show your trust in their caregiver. Simply hand off your kid to their teacher and go without making a big deal out of your departure. Your demonstration of trust in your child's teacher can help your child build their own trust. Show that you consider the teacher a trusted adult by being friendly and chatting about everyday things. And don't forget to smile! :)

HELPING LITTLE KIDS WITH BIG WORRIES

**MON, OCT 26th
9:15–10:30 AM**

PARENT COFFEE CHAT

- ✓ Understand how stress and anxiety show up in young children
- ✓ Learn practical ways to support your child through big feelings
- ✓ Build confidence supporting worries at home and school
- ✓ Ask questions during a live, expert-led Q&A
- ✓ Recieve a take-home parent resource package



**With Guest Speaker
Aimee VanKoughnett,
MSW RSW CPT**

*Registered Social Worker &
Certified Play Therapist*

Location

St John's Christian Nursery School
22 Willow Street
Waterloo

Pre-Survey Link

[https://forms.gle/Xsc6dVWnaPP
LqYoP8](https://forms.gle/Xsc6dVWnaPP
LqYoP8)



**Scan to submit an anonymous
question for the Q&A**

