

Welcome to Kindergarten!



Introducing...our staff!

- We have 2 classes of Kindergarten at our school. The classes are taught by a team of educators, including a Teacher and an Early Childhood Educator. EA support is also available in our classrooms.

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Teachers and ECEs are a team that each bring a special set of skills to the classroom to create a nurturing learning environment.

Parents will get to know each educator and can rely on them both for communication and support with their child's learning.



Ms. Whiteman is our planning teacher for the kindergarten classes

Kindergarten Teams @ Westwood

Ms. Martin and
Ms. Myles
KA



Ms. Monsma &
Ms. Kooiman
KB



Other Important Helpers in our School



Principal -
Ms. Woytko



Vice Principal -
Mr. Pranger



Office Coordinator -
Ms. Cook

A Typical Day in Kindergarten

Entry Bell (8:50)

Attendance & Announcements

Intentional Play-based Learning *with embedded Math & Literacy*

Snack

First Recess Break

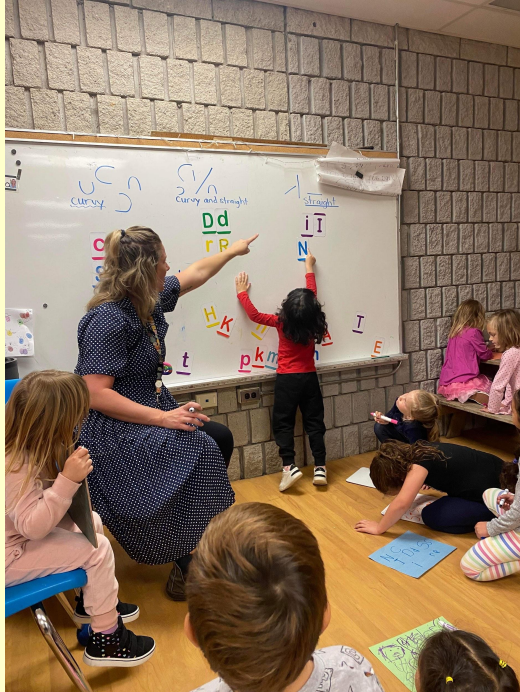
Intentional Play-based Learning *with embedded Math & Literacy*

Lunch and Recess Break

Quiet time followed by Gym/Library/Music

Intentional Play-based Learning *with embedded Math & Literacy*

Dismissal (3:10)



** Kindergarten students are provided with extra time to eat, but please don't be surprised if they don't finish all you send in the beginning 😊*

Intentional Play Based Learning

The Kindergarten Curriculum is organized by 4 ‘frames’ or areas of learning. Expectations for learning are embedded within these frames. The following four slides will demonstrate how learning happens in Kindergarten.

During the regular school day, children are involved in many different kinds of activities designed to help young learners explore, discover and grow. They will have opportunities to initiate learning and play, as well as take part in more structured play-based learning under the guidance of a teacher and early childhood educator.

The teacher and early childhood educator are guided by a curriculum document that reflects the existing kindergarten program, as well as current best practices.

Through play-based learning and small group instruction children develop a strong foundation for learning in all areas, including language and math. They also engage in healthy physical activity, the arts, and develop socially and emotionally through interaction with peers and the educators who guide them.

Ontario Ministry of Education, 2013

I'm sorry I got messy today but..

I've been exploring the water and learning about emptying, filling and pouring. Sometimes I might spill a little bit - the muscles in my hands are still developing.

There was flour in our messy area today. I was so interested in how it would make clouds if I threw a little into the air.

I loved the texture of the playdough, but I rested my arm on a little bit as I reached across the table. I didn't realise it would stick to my sleeve!

I was learning about what happens if I mix two colours together.. It's messy work, but the green paint on my jumper comes from the blue and yellow that I mixed!

This mark is from a pen. I'm trying really hard to learn to hold the pen and make marks on the paper.

The mud kitchen is very dirty, but it's so much fun! Playing there helps me develop my imagination and explore my understanding of the world. I watched you cook at home and I wanted to try by myself.

A Day in the Life of Kindergarten

~ exploring the 4 Frames of the Kindergarten Curriculum ~

Literacy & Mathematics

- *Oral language*
- *Rhyming*
- *Letters and sounds*
- *Printing Skills*
- *Early reading & writing skills*
- *Number recognition*
- *Counting and matching*
- *Shapes*
- *Patterning*
- *Singing*
- *Hands-on activities to build fine motor skills*



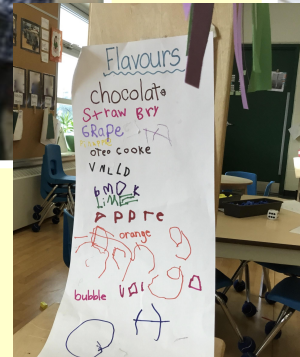
Exploring Numbers



Practicing Letters



Building Words



Writing in the Dramatic Play Centre



Counting & Reading

Self Regulation & Wellbeing

- *Learning about health and well-being*
- *Building self regulation*
- *Using social skills in play*
- *Exploring movement*

Dramatic Play



Collaboration & sharing



Movement

Belonging & Contributing



Exploring with Paint



Caring for the environment

- *Developing social skills*
- *Sharing thoughts and feelings*
- *Building a positive self image*
- *Care for self and others*
- *Care and respect for the environment*
- *Explore the arts*



Community Helpers



Caring for others



Dressing Independently

Problem Solving & Innovation

- *Explore through hands on investigations and observations*
- *Share questions, thinking, and learning with others*
- *Use problem solving skills on their own and with others*
- *Create and design*



Building & Creating

Wonderings!



It began with building a floor

We measured to see if the floor was big enough for the house!

Authentic conversations about measurement and cooperation and creativity at its finest!

What Does My Child Need for School?



- Indoor Shoes (running shoes they can put on independently, i.e. Velcro or slip-on, **please no shoe laces**).
 - Outdoor clothing appropriate for the weather
 - A change of clothes to be kept at school, labelled
 - A backpack, lunch bag, and reusable water bottle
- *Please label EVERYTHING that comes to school with your child

Your child does not need an individual pencil case of school supplies. If you would like to donate to the classroom, markers/glue sticks/tape/craft supplies are ALWAYS welcome.

How Else Can I Help My Child?

- Encourage both active and dramatic play
- Dressing independently (zippers - please no button-up coats-, getting shoes on and off, and bathroom skills i.e wiping)
- Familiarize them with their lunch bag and containers (eg. how to open and close them)
- Recognizing their name
- Using scissors
- **Read aloud with your child every day!**





Helpful Information As We Get Ready To Start School

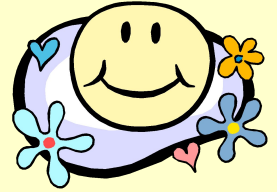
- Arrival & Dismissal Routines (as well as bussing)
- Building Independence and Self Care
- Communication with School and Teacher

Arrival & Dismissal Routines



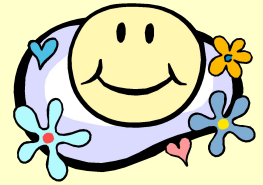
- ❖ Upon arrival students will be greeted by an educator outside at the back of the school. Their educators will bring them into the school at the bell (8:50am)
- ❖ **Please make your goodbye quick in the morning** - if your child is crying, in our experience, they are fine very quickly once they enter the classroom. Long, drawn-out goodbyes often add to the stress for students.
- ❖ At dismissal you can pick up your child in the same location as drop off. You will need to check-in with an educator on duty before leaving with your child.
- ❖ Please let the school know when your child will be late or absent by leaving a message with the school office coordinator Ms. Cook.
- ❖ If you know your child will be coming late or picked up early, it is helpful to communicate this through email to your child's educator in advance

Bus Information



- ❖ If your child takes a bus they will be greeted each morning and escorted from the bus to the supervised play yard or directly into the school if they arrive after the bell. At the end of the day they will be escorted to their bus by a supervisor.
- ❖ You will need to meet the bus at the designated drop off time and location.
- ❖ Bus information will be mailed to families in mid-August if you qualify for bussing.
- ❖ Daily bussing updates (eg. changes due to weather) can be found on <https://stwdsts.ca/>

Building Independence and Self Care



- ❖ Children will be given a cubby of their own and supported in learning to take care of their own lunch bags, clothing and backpacks. Label EVERYTHING.
- ❖ In preparation for Kindergarten, help your child learn about appropriate clothing for the weather and how to independently get dressed for going outside and take coats, snow pants and mitts off when coming inside.
- ❖ Children are expected to use the washroom facilities independently, including wiping. Many prompts will be given to use the washroom throughout the day.
- ❖ Each Kindergarten classroom has a washroom within it and students are welcome to use the washroom at any time to encourage listening to their own body cues.

Outdoor Learning in all weather

- We are so lucky that Westwood borders Marksam park, a forest space that is accessed by our entire school community regularly
- It will be important for your child to arrive with outdoor clothing appropriate for ALL weather (eg. rain boots, splash pants, mitts and extra mitts if it is cold and wet, warm coat and snow pants). Students will be outside every day for recess and outdoor learning.
- Thin cotton finger mittens are NOT recommended, they do not provide warmth or waterproofing when playing outside. Please send warm, waterproof mittens in the winter, labelled clearly.
- Your child will be coming home messy/muddy/dirty/wet. In Kindergarten, this is a sign of a day well spent. Please do not send your child in special clothing or shoes that they are not allowed to play in/get dirty.



Sunscreen



- On days when sun exposure is a concern, please ensure your child comes to school with sunscreen already applied. As educators, we are unable to apply sunscreen at any time for your child.
- If you need to send your child with sunscreen to reapply throughout the day, LABEL their bottle and ensure they can apply it independently. Please no aerosol spray bottles, as they cannot be applied indoors.
- Hats with large brims and long light cotton sleeves also go a long way in sun exposure prevention.

Communication with School and Teacher

- ❖ We are committed to working with you to build a strong home-school connection. Please feel free to connect with us to share questions or happenings from home through email at any time.
- ❖ Stay connected by visiting our school website and twitter feed.
- ❖ If you have concerns about your child's transition to school please reach out to Ms. Woytko in the school office before September to arrange a meeting with your child's educators.
 - Behaviour concerns
 - Medical concerns
 - Speech and language
- ❖ If your child has any medical concerns please contact the school office before the start of school to develop a plan of care to meet the needs of your child.

When/What to Communicate

- Keeping your child's educators in the loop is helpful and can help set your child up for success on any given day
 - Had a terrible sleep
 - Has a toothache
 - Got a new puppy
 - Was very grumpy this morning
- Email your educator about early pickups for appointments, new grownup picking your child up
- Morning drop-off time is **not** a time to check in with your child's teacher or tell them important information - we are greeting the entire class and going into teaching mode. Instead, send an email. It helps us to keep track of small details like early pickup times.

Nut-Free School



- There are a variety of allergies within our school and even our Kindergarten classes specifically.
- Please no peanuts or tree nuts, peanut butter, nutella (contains hazelnuts), granola bars that include nuts of any kind, etc.

Home Toys

- In September, a special transition item may be needed for your child to feel safe (eg. blanket, lovey, stuffy, etc). This would be a significant item of importance to your child that they can bring but will need to leave at their cubby for hygiene and safety of special item.
- Home toys (different from transitional item) should NOT come to school - these are toys from home like a play cell phone, lego creation, new stuffies, happy meal toys, bracelets, popits, etc. These toys cause enormous upset and distress, often going missing, getting broken, being taken.
- We sincerely appreciate your help with this. In a class of up to 30 students, toys from home are too difficult for us to manage.



Ways to get involved...



❖ Volunteer

There are many opportunities from making playdough and putting together booklets to reading with small groups and participating in special events. Ask your educators how you can help.

If you would like to be a volunteer in your child's class or on field trips, you will require a **Vulnerable Sector police record check** from City of Guelph. Apply soon, as checks can take up to 6 weeks to get back. Please note, there is now a fee of \$35 for a record check.

❖ Inquire about becoming a Lunch Supervisor

❖ Consider joining School Council

We can't wait to
welcome you to
Westwood
Public School!
See you soon!

