

Newsletter



A message from the Executive Director

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season.

Thank you for your patience while our classrooms and hallways are receiving a fresh coat of paint. Painting will continue on weekends throughout the month of January. We will also be adding a faux wood feature wall in the main foyer area as well as adding built-in benches in the infant/toddler hallway

You have likely noticed the new couches located outside of the office. We are working towards creating a parent resource area. Stay tuned, more information will be shared in the coming months.

A message from the Board of Directors

Dear families,

We hope you had a wonderful holiday break filled with quality time with your little one(s)! The Board had a productive Fall term which included supporting the Apple Crisp Fundraiser, running an ECE appreciation night for our amazing Bright Starts CELC educators and setting the 2019/2020 budget for the centre. We are pleased that the budget resulted in no fee increase, due large in part to the grant funding made available by the region. During the Winter term the board is excited to run two fundraising activities (details coming soon) and will be actively recruiting for the 2019-2021 Board of Directors. Our Annual General Meeting will take place on the evening of Tuesday, May 14th. Please save the date and plan to attend. We are looking forward to representing and continuing to build this great Bright Starts CELC community in the year ahead.

Jessica Lang – President (Acting)

Winter weather has arrived!



When severe inclement weather occurs and normal operation poses a significant danger to our employees, children, and their families, Bright Starts CELC will close.

Bright Starts CELC will close if either the Public or Separate School Boards close, even if the University of Waterloo remains open.

When possible, a decision will be made by 6:30am. The closure will be communicated through the following methods:

- An email notice from Bright Starts CELC to all families
- Bright Starts CELC telephone voice messaging service
- Bright Starts CELC website
- The University of Waterloo's Daily Bulletin
- The Region's local news radio stations 96.7 CHYM FM, 570 NEWS

Gotta Love Winter Weather in Ontario!

We play outside 2 hours every day unless the temperature is below -15 with or without the wind chill (-10 for infants)

We use the University of Waterloo's Weather Station [Website](#) when determining the temperature.

Winter weather means packing warm clothes.

- ✓ Winter coat
- ✓ Snow pants
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Mittens
- ✓ Boots
- ✓ Extra winter gear is good too! Especially mittens.



Share Your Feedback!

Share your comments and praise with the Board of Directors in two ways:

- [Fill out the online feedback form](#)
- Complete a hard copy feedback form and drop it in the comment box (located in the front foyer)

The Board will review comments monthly.

If you have an immediate concern, please contact the office. This new process is not meant to circumvent existing policies and procedures.

Did you know...that your every day shopping can help Bright Starts?

[Purchase gift cards](#) every month for groceries, gas, and other retailers.

Label your child's belongings using [Mabel's Labels](#).

Every order through the [Scholastic Book Club](#) supports our programs through free books and resources. You can now shop online!

Bright Starts Closes at 5:30 PM

A friendly reminder, Bright Starts hours of operation are from 7:30am-5:30pm. At the end of the day, it is important to arrive prior to 5:30 to pick up your child to ensure that everyone is able to leave for the evening on time. We understand our work days are busy and sometimes it can be difficult to be here by 5:30. Please remember that our staff have families too and commitments after their work. Key fobs will not permit access to the building after 5:30. If you are unable to access the building then you are considered late. Late fees are charged at the rate of \$5.00 for the first 1-5 minutes a parent is late followed by \$1.00/minute thereafter.

Help Keep Children Healthy

If your child is sick, please keep them home. Help us reduce the spread of infections and illness. Not sure if you should keep them home? [Check out our Health and Illness policy](#).

Boots and Shoes: Please help keep our floors dry throughout the day by removing your wet footwear and wearing the slippers provided at our front entrance. Thank you for your co-operation.

Tax Receipts: Available mid-February.

Bright Starts is CLOSED

February 18th - Family Day
April 12th - Annual Staff Professional Development Day
April 19th - Good Friday (we are open Easter Monday)
May 20th - Victoria Day

Fundraisers

[Scholastic Book & FundScrip Orders](#)

February 8th (FundScrip)
February 15th (Scholastic)
March 8th (FundScrip)
March 15th (Scholastic)
April 12th (FundScrip)
April 15th (Scholastic)
May 10th (FundScrip)
May 15th (Scholastic)

Events

February 11th - Summer Camp Registration Opens for Internal Families
March 1st - Senior Preschool begins
May 14th - Annual General Meeting

Board of Directors Meetings

January 15th	February 19th
March 19th	April 16th
May 14th (AGM)	

Parent Resource Corner

The city of Kitchener has unveiled two new natural areas at Kingsdale Park and Gzowski Park. The public spaces come equipped with "new sand play features, opportunities for gardening and stewardship, as well as community art". This initiative gives children the opportunity to experience creative and imaginative outdoor play in a public place, and is also a chance for the community to build strong social connections. Click [here](#) to learn more about these new exciting spaces.

[Anne Butler explores reducing challenging behaviors during transitions: strategies for Early Childhood Educators to share with parents](#). Children go through many transitions so it's important to understand the difficulty that could arise. Learn how to help, prevent, teach skills, strategies, show support and more with NAEYC!

Contact Us

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