

Newsletter



A message from the Executive Director

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

On March 1st our Senior Preschool program will begin. This program will be run out of the multipurpose room and is intended for our 20 oldest preschoolers. An email will be sent in the coming days to those families whose child will be moving into this program.

With our consistent need to move our currently enrolled children up to the next older age group, we will unfortunately not be offering our weekly summer camp program this summer. We will be filling all Senior Preschool (P6) spots by moving currently enrolled students into the program, without any capacity to offer summer care to past students and/or siblings. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If you are looking for licensed summer camp options for your older child(ren), please do not hesitate to enquire in the office.

A message from the Board of Directors

Dear families,

We hope you had a wonderful and relaxing holiday break filled with quality time with your little one(s)! The Board undertook a number of initiatives in the fall, including 1) our annual Apple Crisp Fundraiser (thank you to all parents and Bright Starts CELC staff who helped on the assembly line in the kitchen!); 2) acknowledging our wonderful educators on Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day;; 3) organizing a staff appreciation dinner for our amazing Bright Starts CELC educators (thank you parents for all the lovely and heartwarming memories you shared with the Staff Appreciation Committee); and 4) drafting and approving the 2020 budget (thank you to the Finance Committee for all of your efforts in devising a well-thought-out budget). What can you expect next from the board? The Nominating Committee will share details in February about recruitment for the 2020-2022 Board of Directors. Our Annual General Meeting will take place on the evening of Tuesday, May 12th. Please save the date and plan to attend. The centre will offer childcare and pizza for the children during the AGM so families may attend. We wish you all the best in 2020!

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 station [570 NEWS Extreme Weather Centre](#)

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
 - ✓ Neck warmer
 - ✓ Mittens
 - ✓ Boots
 - ✓ Extra winter gear
- is good too! Especially mittens and socks.



Share Your Feedback!

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

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

The Board reviews comments monthly. If you have an immediate concern, please contact the office.

Did you know...that you can support Bright Starts CELC in the following ways?

1. Purchase [gift cards](#) every month for groceries, gas, and other retailers. A percentage of all sales goes directly to Bright Starts CELC.
2. Label your child's belongings using [Mabel's Labels](#). A percentage of all sales goes directly to Bright Starts CELC.
3. 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. Families are expected to be out of the centre by 5:30. 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, you are considered late. Late fees are charged at the rate of \$5.00 for the first 1-5 minutes 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: Tax receipts will be sent out electronically mid-February.

Bright Starts is CLOSED

February 17th - Family Day
April 3rd - Annual Staff Professional Development Day
April 10th - Good Friday (we are open Easter Monday)
May 18th - Victoria Day

Fundraisers

Scholastic Book & FundScrip Orders Deadline

January 15th (Scholastic)
February 7th (FundScrip)
February 14th (Scholastic)
March 6th (FundScrip)
March 13th (Scholastic)
April 10th (FundScrip)
April 15th (Scholastic)
May 8th (FundScrip)
May 15th (Scholastic)

Events

March 2nd - Senior Preschool begins
May 12th - Annual General Meeting

Board of Directors Meetings

January 21st	February 18th
March 17th	April 21st
May 12th (AGM)	

Parent Resource Corner

Explore publications on the website Zero to Three: [Early Connections Last a Lifetime](#). It's a lovely resource for educators and families.

Check out this short [video](#) on the story of how photographer Johan Bävman decided to turn Swedish dads on parental leave into role models for dads around the world. Here's Johan's [website](#) where you can see his photographs along with the story of the fathers that he has photographed.

While in space, astronauts are videotaping themselves reading books for children to watch on earth. These videos are being edited and placed on this [Story Time From Space website](#) - look under the heading of "Story Time Videos" and share a story from space with your child.

Contact Us

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