

# Nursery/Kindergarten School Handbook

## **Welcome!**

This week your child will be experiencing one of the most important milestones in their life – the first day of their school career! We understand that you and your child may be experiencing some excitement or apprehension (or a little of both) leading up to this big day; our hope is that this handbook will help to ease your mind and give you an idea of what to expect this coming year.

We are very excited to be working with your children this year and to be helping them achieve their fullest potential in a safe and fun learning community.

## **Teaching Philosophy:**

It is our belief that children come to school with a wealth of knowledge already built. They bring their experiences and surroundings with them into the classroom each day. It is our job as teachers to help them learn within the context of their lives, in order to further their understanding of the curriculum and to progress intellectually throughout the course of the year. The only way a classroom community that allows this type of learning can be forged is with the support of everyone involved. It is crucial that we work together to create a community centred on mutual respect, understanding, and empathy. It takes a village to raise a child, and together, we have the power to help nurture the future leaders of our world.

Our classrooms will be a place of centre-based learning. This means that each day students will have the opportunity to explore through play and social interaction, while also working in several centres to help develop the literacy skills and mathematical skills needed to build a strong foundation for future years. The students will be taught independence, self-regulation, cooperation, and responsibility skills within the classroom setting.

## **Parent/Teacher Relationship:**

We believe that a strong parent/teacher relationship is crucial for your child's maximum school success. Throughout the year we will communicate with you regularly. Seesaw will be our main platform for communication between home and school. We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

## **Morning/Afternoon Arrival and Pick Up:**

All N/K classes will use the North Doors of the school (on Jefferson Ave between the Main Entrance and Bumpers Daycare). Each class will have a designated line up area marked with a pylon. Students and caregivers line up at the pylon during drop off times and caregivers will line up at the same pylon during pick up time. Drop off for the morning class is at 8:50 am and pick up is at 11:30 am. Drop off for the afternoon class is at 12:55 pm and pick up is at 3:30 pm. Please do not send your child to school before 8:50 am or 12:55 pm as there is no one to supervise your child before this time.

The safety of our students is extremely important to us at EWSS. All adults picking students up at the end of the day must be listed as a contact with the school. If there are any changes in who will be picking your child up, please be sure to let your child's teacher know ahead of time.

### **SafeArrival:**

The WSD uses SafeArrival for absence reporting. If you know that your child will be away from school, please report the absence to SafeArrival in advance using one of these methods:

- Using your mobile device, download the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
- Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
- Call the toll-free number 1-855-278-4513 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

### **Birthdays:**

Birthdays are a special day in many children's lives. If you would like to send treats on a specific day, please let your child's teacher know in advance. **Remember that EWSS is a peanut and nut free school.**

If your child is having a birthday party, please refrain from sending party invitations to school for distribution. Many children have their feelings hurt if they are not invited. We work to promote a classroom built on respect, inclusion, and community and this does not support that vision. Please help your child to understand this concept, and find a way to distribute invitations outside of the school environment.

### **Money:**

On occasion it will be necessary for your child to bring money to school (for fundraisers, field trips, etc). Always send money in a sealed envelope with the following information written on it:

- Your child's first and last name
- The amount of money enclosed
- The purpose of the money
- Teacher's name and room number

### **Toy Policy:**

Please refrain from having your child bring toys from home into the classroom, unless requested by me in writing. We do not wish to see these toys lost or damaged.

### **Clothing:**

Students are regularly involved in activities that require jumping, running, climbing, etc. We will also be baking, painting, using glue, working with playdough, and playing at the sand/water table. Please select clothing that is both comfortable and appropriate for these activities. Students are required to bring an extra set of clothes to be kept at the school in case of accidents or messes.

### **School Supply Fees:**

Fees for N/K students are \$30. Please pay using one of the following options by **Friday September 16, 2022**.

- E-transfer (preferred method) to [waterfordsprings@wsd1.org](mailto:waterfordsprings@wsd1.org) with NO PASSWORD. Please indicate in the notes your child's name and room number
- Cash or cheque (payable to École Waterford Springs School) handed in to the classroom teacher.  
**Cash payments must be for the exact amount owing as we are unable to provide change.**

### **Outdoor Play:**

We will be going outside to play and learn on a regular basis. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each day.

### **Snack:**

Students are required to bring **one small snack** to school each day. They are also able to bring a reusable water bottle. We strongly encourage that you choose healthy options. **EWSS is a peanut and nut free environment – please be mindful of this when sending snacks or treats to the school.**

Some recommendations for snack are as follows:

- Cut up fruit or vegetables and dip
- Cheese and crackers
- Yogurt (yogurt tubes are a great option)
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars (not nuts)
- Applesauce
- Dried cereal

Please refrain from sending any glass containers to school. Also, please send appropriate cutlery when needed as we have limited utensils in the classroom.

### **Finally...**

Please encourage your child to discuss school activities with you. Talk positively with them about school. The way your child perceives your feelings about the school, the teachers, and what we are doing in the classroom will have a direct effect on how they themselves feel about those things. We are delighted to have your child in our N/K program and we look forward to working with you to make sure that your child starts school on a positive note. We truly appreciate your support and we look forward to a fun and successful year!

*Ms. Heather Carson*

*Ms. Angeli De Leon*

*Mrs. Tanya Levy*