



Oak Street Nursery School Newsletter



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Happy 2025!! We hope everyone had great holiday and has settled into January. January tends to be another turning point in the school year. The children seem to be extra keen, have very high energy, are excited to learn new things and are looking forward to playing with their friends. This gives us the challenge of offering themes that are interesting, fun, and action packed. At the same time we are also trying to gently advance the developmental skills of the children such as, instilling a sense of classroom structure, improved fine motor skills, progression in their social skills, and reading *readiness* skills (this doesn't mean ACTUAL reading for most) Remember that each child develops at their own pace and our goal is simply to help them progress to **their own** next level. They are still young and are busy exploring their world and figuring out who they are. We will encourage them to do things that are a little bit trickier but our expectation remains that they have confidence and are having fun. We always look forward to this turning point in the year.

REMEMBER! Getting back into routine is difficult. Each year we find that the kids are tired at first. Don't be discouraged if getting to school is a struggle for a while. This little cold spell coming up after such a mild winter adds another challenge because staying home all cozy and warm seems like the right thing to do but hang in there!

Registration for Next Year

Registration will begin in February. Our plan is to open registration to people already registered in the program before we open it to the public. If you know of anyone wanting to register for 2025/2026, either in the 3-year-old or 4/5-year-old program, have them call us at 204-488-1133. We will send them registration information. All current families will automatically receive the registration package via email. Families **must re-register** if they are returning.

For those of you who are considering our lunch program and/or our 4/5year old program, we are very proud of it. The children who have left here for various Kindergartens have done very well. They tend to leave here with a lot of confidence and self worth, good readiness skills, great listening skills, and they give new teachers the sense of "I have seen that, done that, and am interested in whatever you are going to teach me". We feel our program's emphasis on developing the whole child paired up with our low teacher/student ratio contributes to the success in their next school setting.

Remember, we also have kindergarten children in our afternoon program. We are thrilled to say that the kindergarten aged children are doing wonderfully and still seem enthusiastic about being here with us. If you are considering sending your kindergarten child to Oak Street and have questions, please feel free to ask. Watch your email for registration info soon.



Fees and Fee Receipts



Please make sure that all fees for 2024 are submitted

All tax receipts for 2024 have been issued if fees were paid.

Lunch and after school hours for 2025/26

As it stands, it is a go for next year again. While we really want to maintain the integrity of the fact that our program is a nursery school rather than day care, we can clearly see that what people are needing is longer child care hours and the lunch program and extra hour at the end of the day seems to help fill that need.

The lunch hour option is only available to the children in the 4/5 year old program and space is limited.

We can pick children up from Robert H Smith and walk them over to our program for the lunch hour. If your child attends a school other than that, you are welcome to drop them off after 11:40 for the lunch hour.

The premise of the lunch hour and extra hour at the end of the day is to extend the hours of care from 2.5 to as many as 5 hours. Families must provide a lunch for their child.

If you are interested or have any questions, please email us or give us a call for more information

Important Dates and Upcoming Themes

Jan 18 ~Making vegetable soup for snack – Please send in 1 vegetable that children can cut and add to soup

****February 17 - Louis Riel day - School Closed****

*****March 14th – In-Service – School closed*****

******March 31 – April 4 Spring Break – School Closed******

******* April 18 – Good Friday – School Closed*******

~ January 6 -Jan 14 ~ Dinosaurs	~March 3&4 ~ Numbers
~January 16 – Jan 24 ~ Doctor /Nutrition	~March 6 & 7 ~ ~ P.J. and pancakes Kids can wear p.j's!)
~ Jan 27 & 28 ~ Chinese New Year (Snake)	~March 10 -13 ~ Favourite Stories – Fairy Tales
~ Jan 30 & 31 ~ Tiger Hunt	~March 17 & 18 ~ St. Patrick's Day
~February 3-7 ~ Dentist	~March 20 & 21 ~ Sports Days
~February 10-14 ~ Valentines	~ March 24-28 ~ Science Week
~February 13 ~ Valentine Party Day -see below	~ April 7 – 11 ~ Indoor Safety
~Feb 18 -21 ~ Festival Du Voyageur	~ April 14 – 17 ~ Space
~ Feb 24 – Feb 28 ~ Alphabet	~ April 21 – 25 ~ Earth Day

February 13 ~ Valentines Parties am & pm ~ All children are invited this day. More info below



Numbers and Letters



Number/letter recognition as well as fine motor skills (holding pencils, tracing, drawing, alphabet, printing and recognizing names, etc.) are emphasized more at this time in our program.

**Often, Parents are concerned about printing, letter recognition, number recognition etc
As mentioned above, in the new year we are going to start working on this stuff a bit more.**

Here is the inside scoop about how we approach teaching letters and numbers. We want to take the pressure off the children so instead of getting them to simply memorize the letters and numbers we focused more on exploring them. That approach seems to reduce the stress and anxiety and also makes learning the basics a lot of fun. Our approach still challenges the children but also enables them to take notice without hesitation. It encourages a willingness to try their hand at the difficult concepts and it fosters self confidence, effort and interest.

We know that parents are often interested or concerned about their child's progression when it comes to letters, printing, etc. Please remember that each child develops at an individual pace. There are several variables (gender, birth order, interests, time of year child is born and so on) that play a part in their development which in turn affects how and when they are ABLE to make sense of the alphabet or of numbers. Someone once said that the alphabet to a child is as abstract as Hieroglyphic symbols are to the average person. For example...

Have you ever looked at letters/ symbols from a completely different language?

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Can you figure out what those say? The letters that we know as our alphabet are as foreign to children as other languages are to us. Hearing that really helped put it into perspective and really helped us figure out effective ways to introduce the concept of letters.

We feel that it is much more important for children to be excited and interested in learning letters/ numbers than it is for them to actually know them. Because of that, we will spend time throughout the rest of the year exposing the children to these concepts as much as we can without scaring them or turning them off of the whole idea. We are confident that with familiarity, when they are interested AND ready, it will all fall into place and will make sense to them.

Important announcement!!!

Although we spend much of the rest of the year working at exposing the children to various number and letter skills, we feel strongly that pressuring them to master them is counterproductive. Over the years we have found that children who feel pressured are likely to feel anxious and are less confident to try these new skills. Please **DO NOT** pressure your child to perform at a certain level when it comes to these skills. We understand that you are simply interested in their success but rest assured that their success will quickly follow once they themselves become interested and when their confidence allows for it. Each child will become interested in their own time. Learning these concepts should be fun and exciting, not scary and stressful. These skills are not a requirement at this point nor is it realistic to set these expectations on the children. We simply expose them to the various concepts so that they can become familiarized with them and so they can gain some confidence to explore them. It is definitely a "process vs. product" situation. We encourage attempts and do not expect perfection. Whatever level they are at will be encouraged and celebrated.

Valentine party info below



Feb 13 ~ A.M. and P.M. parties will be on Thursday only- All children are invited

Those who do not usually attend on Thursday can arrange to come that day in lieu of another day. Please email Karlin to request a switch of days.

Wear red, white, purple and/or pink to school this day if you want to. We will celebrate Valentine's Day by teaching the joy and meaning of the holiday. Your child may bring cards for the other children. **We do not give out a class list. Please only write "From " and enter YOUR child's name on the cards to make distribution easier. In other words, no need to write who the card is "to" just write who it is "from"**

Children will make Valentine bags at school that we will put out for the day of the party. We will assist your child in putting a card in each friend's bag. For those who are away that day, we will make sure there is a bag for your child and will save them until they return. If you will be away or cannot attend that day but want to give cards, teachers will take them in advance and distribute them on the party day. For children in the lunch program, please put your child's cards in a ziplock bag **IN their lunch bag on the day of the party** and ask them to give them to us. We will ask at lunch that day if anyone has cards.

A.M. - If your child attends the morning sessions, there are 10 children in total

P.M. - If your child attends afternoons, there are 21 children in total.

Sometimes people include a small treat attached to their Valentine card. This is not at all expected or necessary but if you do plan on including something please be mindful of classroom allergies. These allergies are tree nuts in the am. Pm class has zero allergies. Often a sticker or a party favour type of toy is safer to include but again, not necessary in any way.

Like the Halloween party, we aren't doing a sign up sheet for party snacks. We've decided that in an effort to reduce the amount of sugar, we will skip all the cookies and cupcakes. Our party treat will be ice cream with sprinkles.



Have a safe and happy 2025