

# École Willows School Newsletter

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*These last couple of weeks have been busy, Teachers were continuing with student's regular curriculum, planning Christmas crafts, taking part in projects for those who are not as fortunate as we are, and getting ready for our concert performances. Even our youngest learners were excited to work with Mrs. Evans to get their presentations ready for parents.*

*The children's excitement increases as we get closer to Christmas, and to let you in on a little secret—the staff is just as excited. Everyone is looking forward to a nice break from our regular routine.*

*This week I was invited to taste bread that one class was making; another class was using their Google Apps for Education accounts; one class was felting mushrooms as part of their science unit; another was investigating whether trees can be kind. I can't wait to see what I will see in January.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of Willows. It is so important to have parents involved with what goes on at the school and in the classrooms. Your support is a huge part of what makes Willows such a wonderful school in which to learn and grow.*

*Dianne and I are looking forward to spending time with our families and friends and we know that you are looking forward to spending time with yours. We wish you all the best of the holiday season and hope you find joy, peace, and adventure in 2019.*

## Inside this issue:

A Musical Christmas	2—5
English Kind. Registration	6
French Kind. & Gr. 1 Registration	6
Welcome to School	6
A Trip to Government House	7

## Dates to Remember

- Jan. 7—First day of classes
- Jan. 14- 18 -French Immersion Kindergarten & Gr. 1 French Registration
- Jan. 16—PAC Meeting 7:00 in the library
- Jan. 28— Feb 1 English Kindergarten Registration

# Happy Holidays

# Our Musical Christmas



The children from our Kindergarten classes were so excited to perform this morning for their parents and grandparents.

They had rehearsed for some time. Students performed songs they learned in their individual music classes with Mrs. Evans as well as songs they learned in their classrooms with their individual teachers.



Bell ringing was an added treat this morning. The children were amazing and really had fun performing.

The teachers, as well as Mrs. Evans, get into the act and direct the songs the kids learned in class. We thank them all for their enthusiasm they generate for the children they work with.



# Happy Holidays

# Our Young Performers



The Grade One children looked and sounded lovely. The parents and grandparents, and friends were very surprised at the presentation. I don't think I know of another school that has over 100 large plastic candy canes that can be called into action so quickly. Only trouble with them is they can't be eaten.



Being ready to go with actions on the risers is a skill required for 'Deck the Hall'. Every time 'fa la la la' came around the rose up and then went down just as expertly.



Mrs. Evans has every right to look so pleased with the way the children have stepped up and performed today.

What a great way to start the morning. Children singing brings the memories of Christmas' past alive all over again. Well done.



# Happy Holidays

# Our Musical Christmas



Our Strings students were the first to perform and they really did an amazing job. They have only been playing their instruments since late September.



Thanks again to Steven Price and the leadership students for helping us navigate the theatre at Oak Bay. The calm before the performance seems a distant memory.



Margy MacMillan was always right there, behind the curtain ready with the next prop.



We would like to thank our parents and guests for their generous contributions to the United Way.

# Happy Holidays



The children looked and sounded lovely. They had practiced a lot and it really paid off. To learn all the songs and to know them off by heart takes work and commitment on the part of the children.—and the directors.



Mme. Fox joined us once again and this time conducted the students in one of their French songs.



While Mrs. Evans accompanied the students on her guitar. Oh the many talents of our Choir Director.



We hope that you enjoyed the Christmas concert. The children love performing and they truly do a wonderful job. Thanks to all the teachers who worked organizing the event, as well as those supervising on the evening. We appreciate the time they put in on the children's behalf.

**Happy Holidays**

# English Kindergarten Registration

Monday, January 28th -  
Friday, February 1st.  
8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
daily.

**Please remember that  
this program is filled  
on a first come, first  
served basis.**

## Early French Immersion Registration Week

Registration for French Immer-  
sion **Kindergarten** and **French  
Immersion Grade 1** will take  
place the week of  
**Mon. Jan. 14 to Fri. Jan. 20,**  
2018.

*French Kindergarten Registration*

Registration will be from 8:00—3:00  
everyday. Doors will open at 7:30.  
Please remember with the lottery  
system there is no real need to be  
here too early.

The Greater Victoria School District is, once again, holding an information session for parents whose children are going to be starting school next year. This year:

### Welcome to School

### General Kindergarten Information

**Wednesday, January 16, 2018**

**6:30—8:30 pm Oaklands Elementary School 2827 Belmont Avenue, Victoria,**

Come and learn more about what awaits your children as they  
begin this new adventure.

# Welcome To School

# Happy Holidays

# A Visit to Government House

Mrs. Ireton's Grade Three class was invited to help decorate the tree that stands in one of the halls at

Government House. The students had to make a decoration in class and take it with them. Students met the

Lieutenant Governor, and by the look of the formal picture the students had a lovely

time at the event. Looks like

the little white dog had some fun as well. What a great Christmas tradition to take part in and an experience not everyone gets to have.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**School begins Mon. Jan, 7th.**

**Happy Holidays**



## A Few Days Before Christmas

(adapted from A Visit From St. Nicholas by Clement Clarke Moore)

T'was a few days before Christmas, and school had let out.  
All the children were playing, no teachers about.  
The tree was all finished just stockings to bring.  
No early alarm clocks to set or to ring.

We are ready for resting, relaxing and such.  
A break from the routine was needed so much.  
We had all worked so hard, all that learning and thinking,  
Now turned to Santa, his eyes all a twinkling

Away went the books, we turned off the computer,  
Said goodbye to the teacher, goodbye to the tutor.  
For two weeks we would laugh, reconnect and renew,  
As a family we knew just what we would do.

We'd play board games, read stories, we'd nap and we'd talk,  
We'd visit with friends or just go for a walk.  
But whatever we'd do, we would do it together,  
And secretly wish for some bright snowy weather.


With snow in the forecast, the reindeer would fly,  
And the Spirit of Christmas would not pass us by.  
The wrapping of presents was now on the mind  
And we smiled when we thought about what's left behind.

"No homework! No testing! No Chromebooks and such!  
No spelling! No science! No learning too much!  
No more novels to study! No more art in the hall!  
It's gone away! Gone away! Gone away all!"



# Happy Holidays





And then, in a twinkling, we remembered this week  
And the work that went into our concerts – unique.  
We thought of the parents their smiles, oh so wide  
As they watched kids perform with oh so much pride.

Kids were neat as a pin, dressed from their head to their toes,  
In their black and their white but with added halos.  
They had practiced for months to get everything right ,  
And their efforts reflected a wonderful night.

The littlest ones sparkled! Their smiles shining bright!  
And throughout their performances grinned with delight!  
They had practiced and now were ready to show,  
What they had accomplished, with faces aglow.

Willows Wear was delivered, concert tickets handed out,  
Books and texts being read and still learning about.  
But soon these will be memories that we will recall  
As we think about when we were once very small.


This season is special, a time of great joys  
As we see love reflected in girls and in boys.  
The excitement of children brings memories to mind  
Of long ago mornings and gifts we would find.

We hope that this Season brings good tidings and peace  
And that your happiness quotient will only increase.  
In family and friends we find laughter for all,  
Of the things that we wish for, the big and the small.

"Merry Christmas to all, have a wonderful rest,  
And we hope that this Season is one of the best".  
On behalf of the staff I would just like to say,  
"Happy New Year as well, have a great holiday!"



**Happy Holidays**



To you and yours,  
From the staff at Willows,  
We wish you a peaceful  
holiday season.

On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and...