

École Willows School Newsletter

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www.sd61.bc.ca/school/willows/

Volume 11 Issue 16
April 30, 2019

PAC Meeting

On Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 pm the PAC will hold its AGM. This is the time when planning for next year begins. I encourage all parents to get involved with the PAC, come to meetings and maybe even stand for a position. Your input is one of the driving forces behind our school's success.

On the staff's behalf I want to thank all those parents who have served on the PAC this year for their time and energy. We really appreciate all you do for us.

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Saying Goodbye -



Saying goodbye to your child and remaining outside is one of the things that helps build confidence. Confidence is one of those things that we want our children to have, and this is a little way we can build it. So starting on May 3rd we are asking that parents say goodbye outside and let their children enter the school on their own. The teacher is there, they come in on their own at recess and lunch so they can do it. By letting them come in independently you are

affirming that they are capable and resilient.

Dates to Remember

- Wed. May 8—Lockdown Drill
- Fri. May 10—Kindergarten Orientation
- Mon, May 13— Thur, May 16— Scholastic Book Fair
- Early Dismissal—May 14 & 15.
- Wed. May 15—PAC AGM in the library at 7:00
- Thurs. May 16— Gr. 5 Transition
- Thurs May 16 Blossom Tree Festival
- Fri. May 17—Pro D Day

Kindergarten Orientation

We will be hosting our annual Kindergarten orientation on Friday, May 10th. We are really looking forward to meeting the students and their parents. We will be hosting our new families in two groups, one before recess (9:00) and one after recess (10:40).



Rugby Tournament



On Friday, May 10th our Rugby team will be taking part in the annual Jamboree. As in the past we will be sending some very excited students. Students will leave the school just after attendance and return in the afternoon for dismissal. This is always an exciting day for our team who have trained so hard. Good Luck!!!

Bonjour, Bonne Nuit

Last night we once again enjoyed stories being read and some time for Double Chocolate Chip Cookies and milk. Stephanie Novak, a representative of the Canadian Parents for French, hosts this event. She arranges for students to come from Oak Bay and Lansdowne to read with our grade one French students. She organizes the whole thing and I get to go and take pictures and listen to Willows alumni direct and read to the little ones. Thank you so much. As you can see in the pictures below the little ones are really focused on what is being shared with them.

Everyone there had a great evening.



Class Photos

On **Monday, May 27th** class photos, our grade 5 student photo, will be taken. The class photos will start at 8:50 am. **Photos will not be retaken if children are late** and miss their class photo, so please have your children at school on time. **There is no cost for class photos or the grade 5 photo.**



Gr. 5 Transition Day



Each year the District sets aside one afternoon to enable all students moving from elementary to middle school an opportunity to visit their new school. This year that date is **Thursday, May 16th**. The individual middle schools host our students with a variety of activities and the children come away with more of an understanding of what they can look forward to when

they arrive. Each year the children come back to Willows excited about the time they have spent.

The grade 5 teachers will be arranging a trip to Lansdowne or Monterey Middle schools. They will be accompanying students on their walk over, the visit there, and the walk back. Unfortunately they can not manage to be with students if they visit a middle school other than our pathway schools. *So, if your child is going to another middle school it will be up to parents to transport them to and from their middle school.*



Student Led Conferences and a Celebration of Learning



Mark your calendars because on Tuesday, May 14th and Wednesday May 15th the children will be

dismissed at 11:52 on both days. Beginning at about 12:50 parents will be invited to come into the classrooms and walk through some of the work their children have done. The kids just love showing off what they have learned and what they know. So please mark your calendars and look for more information coming home soon. Each teacher will be setting up differently so please look for more details closer to the dates.



Lockdown Drill

We will holding our lockdown drill at 11:00am on Wednesday, May 8th. A lockdown is a safety procedure designed to maximize the safety of staff and students in circumstances where there is a potential for violence in the school or surrounding area. During a lockdown, staff and students will secure themselves in their immediate area, lock and secure all interior doors when possible, turn off lights, and remain out of sight - in lockdown until released by police.

Constable Perry is helping with our drill this time and will be looking for areas where we can improve.

Teachers will review the procedures with students before we have the drill. We will mention it on the announcements. Children follow our earthquake procedures by ducking and covering as the teacher secures the room. Then as directed by their teacher, students can move to their lockdown area. They then simply remain quiet and wait for the 'All Clear' announcement.

This is just another type of drill we practice at school, like our fire and earthquake drill. We will let you know how we did and where we need to improve. Thanks to Constable Perry for all her expert help.



Lockdown

Student Placement Process 2019 - 2020

At the PAC meeting last week I explained to those present that this year we are not going to be taking class placement requests from parents as we have done in previous years.

As the class configuration was established it became evident that we would once again have a large number of combined classes, and needed the flexibility to place each child where we felt was the best learning environment for them.

Teachers know a great deal about the children they have been working with all year and they are in the best position to create learning groups for the next year.

Teachers meet with colleagues, deliberate over each placement, and then come back with revisions. I did a quick count of the number of hours they focus on student placement and came to realize that collectively, our teachers probably put in over 137 hours to ensure they are making the right decisions.

Teachers will continue to take into account aspects such as: classroom balance; each child's social, emotional, and behavioural needs; physical and social maturity; student learning needs- learning style; need for learning assistance or Inclusive Learning services, and many, other facets of class composition.

So this year if you have an educationally significant aspect that you feel we may not already know, please speak with your child's teacher, with me, or Mrs. Chretien.

We understand that any kind of change can be difficult, and this is a big change and will take time to get used to. But remember that you have some of the best teachers around making the best decisions for your child. You have trusted them all year, don't stop now.

Thank you in advance for your support.
Wendy

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome Ms. Brenna O'Connor as our new Principal. She is currently the Principal at Doncaster and is looking forward to joining us for September. I am sure that she would like to visit Willows and when some dates can be organized we will let you know.

Blossom Tree Festival

The **Blossom Tree Festival** is coming up
on **Thursday, May 16, 2019**,
and we need your help to make it a success!

If you can give an hour of your time, we guarantee that you'll be responsible
for giving kids and parents alike something to smile about.

Please consider signing up to run one of the games or set up/clean up. Sign up with a
friend. Any help is appreciated. You can sign up by following this link [https://
www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4eadab29a2ff2-2018](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4eadab29a2ff2-2018)



just a reminder:



**Victoria Day
Mon. May 20th.
No school in
session.**

**Pizza / Sushi
Day Fri. May
24th.**

**Grade 5
Transition Day
Thurs. May 16th
students visit
their Middle
School**

**Pro D Day Fri.
May 17th
No school in
session.**



Media Release
For immediate release

Greater Victoria School District proposes additional changes to school boundaries after reviewing community input, announces final school-based consultation.

To review the new proposed catchment boundary changes in detail, use the District's Interactive Digital Map at: www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/

The District will be hosting meetings to consult with the schools directly impacted by the proposals. The proposed recommendations will come back to the Board of Education on Thursday, May 23, 2019, for final deliberations.

Catchment Boundary Review School Meetings

Cloverdale	May 7, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
South Park	May 7, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
Margaret Jenkins	May 8, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
Richmond	May 8, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
Quadra	May 9, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
McKenzie	May 9, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.

Please visit the site

Important

Important

Willows' Boundary Could Change



MAY 2019

MAI 2019



SUN DIM	MON LUN	TUE MAR	WED MER	THU JEU	FRI VEN	SAT SAM
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Intermediate Assembly	7	8 Lockdown Drill Staff Meeting pm	9	10 Rugby Tour- nament Day Kindergarten Orientation	11
12 <i>Happy Mothers Day</i> 	13 Book Fair Arrives all week Primary As- sembly	14 Early Dismissal 11:52— Celebration of learning.	15 Early Dismissal 11:52— Celebration of learning. PAC meeting 7:00 Library	16 Grade 5 Transition visit to middle school p.m. Blossom Tree Festival	17 Pro D Day. No school in session	18
19	20 Victoria Day—no school in session 	21	22	23	24 ArtStarts 1:00 Primary Rainbow Day Pizza/Sushi 	25
26	27 Class and school photo day  Lansdowne Strings con- cert	28 Zone track meet UVIC 10:00— 2:00	29	30 City Final Track Meet 5:30 UVIC	31 Heritage Tea	June 1 Oak Bay Tea Party Parade