

École Willows School Newsletter

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

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June 15 2019

PAC Mtg.
Wed. June 19th
in the Library @ 7:00.

Important

If the family is leaving on holidays before the final day of school, please let the **teacher AND the office know**. For the safety of the children it is important that we have accurate attendance information.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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Please come and look at the items we have collected in the big box by the boy's washroom downstairs. Anything not claimed will be bagged up and sent away once school is over.

Dates to Remember

- Tues. June 18—Fun Day pm
- Wed. June 19—PAC MTG 7:00—Library
- Mon. June 24—Gr. 5 Farewell 1:00
- Tues. June 25—Gr. 5 Variety Show
- Thurs. June 27—Final Assembly
- Thurs. June 27 —Final day for students

GOOD BYE and GOOD LUCK

This is the time of year we say good-bye to quite a few people; students, parents and staff. Saying good bye is never easy, but when we know that each and every one has a bright future ahead of them it makes it a little easier.

***Mme Deblois** has been with us for a long time and she will be missed. She will be teaching at Marigold next year. It is very difficult to say good-bye to such a wonderful teacher and exceptional colleague. She has been an integral part of the French primary team and her energy and innovative ideas will be missed. She cared for each and every child she worked with. We will miss her a lot and we know that Marigold is lucky to have her. We all wish her the very best and know she takes many memories of her Willows family with her.*

***Ms Shearing** will be saying good bye and we hope that another school is as lucky next year as we were this year. She has been a lovely addition to our school and we will miss her. She worked hard for the students and they really loved all the things she had for them to do. She quickly became a valued colleague and we will miss her participation in our conversations. We wish her all the best as she moves on to new things.*

***Mr. Cairns** is also saying goodbye to us. He has provided our kids with interesting work, and fun filled activities to fill their days. He also brought Cricket to our sports program this year and was actually able to keep his team 'white'. He will really be missed by all of us and we thank him for his friendship, laughter, and dedication. We wish him all the best as he moves on to new adventures and hope he will be back with us at some point.*

Mme Ross will be leaving us, again, and we want to thank her for being so willing to come back and help us out time after time. She has said that it is more fun to be with the class for the whole year and that showed everyday. Her passion and dedication to the kids, parents and staff will be missed. We wish her all the best next year and who knows—if we are lucky she might be back yet again.

Mme Fox has been a working with Mme Ross since the beginning of this year and we thank her so much for stepping up and offering her expertise and energy to the position. We know the students enjoy the partnership Mme Fox and Mme Ross have together. The kids really enjoy the learning and activities Mme Fox developed for them. We hope she has a great summer and we know she will be back with us to help with choir or maybe even in a classroom again.

Ms Williamson will be leaving us. She joined us just after Christmas and has been a wonderful addition to our staff. She got to know the kids quickly and provided many opportunities that excited their learning, sparked their imagination as well as providing an ear for their problems. We will miss her and we all wish her the very best for next year.

Miss Prince is a wonderful teacher and colleague and she will be missed. She will be working her magic at McKenzie next year and we hope they know how lucky they are. She has devoted her time and professional aptitude to help her colleagues build capacity in the area of technology. She loves her students. She offers them her very best every day. We are so fortunate that she is part of our Willow's family and we wish her all the best for next year.

Mrs. Shapiro has been a delight to work with. She brings such energy to her classroom and the school. Her smile is the first thing the children see as they are welcomed into the room. Her students truly benefitted from her energy, skill and dedication. We really hope that she will be back with us again but do wish her all the best in whatever adventure she undertakes next year.

Mrs. Gordon was a wonderful addition to Willows. There was always something exciting and innovative happening in her classroom. She is a valued member of the Primary Team and has contributed greatly to the success of the program. The magic of learning was always present in her classroom and the children's faces were proof that you can have fun and learn at the same time. We wish her well at McKenzie School next year.

M. Raimbault left us early this year but we wanted to make sure we thanked him for the work he did for the students in the first two terms. He was a valued member of the French Immersion intermediate team. We all wish him the very best in his new assignment and hope that this adventure is one that will bring him happiness.

Mrs. Nex is a great partner to Mrs. Chretien and she never missed a beat bridging the week with the students. There was always something to look forward to for the kids in the afternoon. We want to thank her for her work with the students in Division 1. We also want to thank her for working with our grade 1 students for that last few months. All the students she worked with looked forward to their time with her. We wish her well wherever she will be next year.

Mr. Welte Maiben will be leaving us and we want him to know how much we have enjoyed him being with us. There was always something happening when he was in the classroom and the children always had smiles on their faces. The students, his partner Ms. Morales, and the staff wish him all the best in whatever adventure he undertakes next year.

Miss Hall has only been with us for a very short time but has shown us that the skills she brings with her are ones that we need. She has worked with Division 14 for the last 5 weeks of school. We have enjoyed having her with us and hope that we will be able to see her back with us on a more permanent basis.

M. Delhomme will be leaving us and we want to thank him for his efforts on behalf of the students. They will no doubt always remember their grade 5 year as they move on with their schooling. M. Delhomme encouraged the students to always do their best work and to be interested in exploring new ideas. We all wish him well in the future.

Mr. Abbott came in to help out as our PE teacher for the month of June. He is a wonderful addition and the children really like working with him. He has more energy than the famous bunny and he needs it to keep up with all the kids class after class. We wish him well wherever he is teaching next year. Maybe we will be lucky and he will be back here.

Mr. Lee has worked in Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Gordon and Ms Williamson's classroom this year and has been a support to the children and teachers. He worked hard to get to know all the students and they appreciated that very much. We wish him all the best in his next assignment.

Mr. Brown is another very skilled EA that worked in Mrs. Alexander and a number of other classrooms since he arrived. He was always ready to help out wherever it was required and did it with such a great smile. His ability to work with all the students in each classroom as well as keeping his focus on specific students was a real asset.. We will miss him and wish him the best of luck for the coming year.

Finally, we would like to say goodbye to all our Grade 5 students who have shared so many 'firsts' with us. We have all loved being part of your childhood and watching you grow and learn. We wish you the very best as you move on to middle school and a new adventure.

We are also saying goodbye to some of the parents of these grade 5 students who will no longer have children attending Willows. You have been such an integral part of our school and have left an indelible mark here.

To the staff, students and parents, please remember that once you are part of the Willows' family, you **are always part of the Willows' family** and we would love it if you stayed in touch.

Goodbye and best of luck to all those who will not be with us next year. We wish you the very best in whatever you undertake.

Wendy and Dianne

June 15, 2019

Plans For Next Year

If your plans for next year have changed and you will not be coming back to Willows, please make sure you contact Shauna in the office at willows@sd61.bc.ca and give her your new information as soon as possible. We have a number of families on our waiting lists and would like to let them know if room has come available. Our offices will be open until June 28th.

Fun Day

Tomorrow, Tuesday, June 18th, we will be having our annual Fun Day. We hope the weather will hold for us so that we will not have to reschedule. Everyone must think positively. Thank you to everyone who offered to come and help out to make this a great day for the kids.

We look forward to seeing you Tuesday afternoon, 1:00—2:30.



Library Buzz



This is the week that all library books need to be brought back to the school and returned to the library. We need to begin our re-shelving and counting, and would ask that you look under the beds, on bookshelves, and under couches for any library books that belong to Willows. At this time we still have books outstanding. On June 24th we must begin our inventory so that we know that our collection is complete and ready to be used again next year.

Thanks for your help!

Final Day for Students June 27th



Ideas for Over the Summer

Here are some tips that we hope will give you some ideas of ways to work/play with your children while keeping up their skills. Janine Roy, a retired District Principal of Learning Initiatives, gave us the suggestions below and we hope they will be helpful.

She suggests that you:

Help your child have a chance to follow their **passion** this summer. If they become excited about a specific topic (FIFA soccer, bicycles, eagles, stars, etc.) take them to the *library* to learn more and help them find videos and links online. Get a cookbook and involve them in cooking. Go to a local *park* to explore nature. Go for a *walk* in the neighbourhood and then follow up on an inquiry they are excited about. Following their passion, which may last for a few minutes, hours or days, is a very important element of learning as they get the chance to be a self-directed learner.



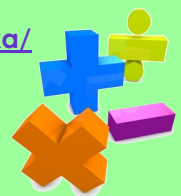
Make sure there are times for unstructured **play** with friends, family and independently. We live in such a wonderful community that building a fort in the backyard with a friend or bike riding to a local park or taking a friend to explore a new trail or beach is a wonderful experience for our children and youth. Play is so important for cognitive development as well as physical, emotional and social development.

Practice in the summer is a chance to continue to build skills and confidence. Support your child by setting **time for them to read each day**. Reading 'just right text' for 20 - 25 minutes per day will help your beginning readers to build their enjoyment of reading, their confidence and their skills. (If you are not sure what 'just right text' would be for your child, determine the title of their favourite book they read at school recently and then share this title with the local librarian to find more books at this level. For text with 1 - 2 sentences, your child should be able to read the entire page comfortably without making a mistake. For beginning chapter books like Nate the Great and Amelia Bedelia, they should be able to read the page with only one mistake. Remember, a stumble or a rereading a word isn't a mistake - that's a good thing as they are self-correcting.) As a Mom, I would highly recommend having your child join the **Greater Victoria Public Library Summer Reading Program**: Help your child to select 'just right texts' and books they are excited about. Participating in the **Summer Reading Club** makes acquiring new books a fun part of summer.



To ensure that **math confidence and skills** stay sharp, help your child to:

- count and sort rocks, shells, laundry (yes!) and explain their sorting rules
- play math card games each day: [http://www.granby.k12.ct.us/uploaded/faculty/wyzika/Dice and Card Games to Practice Math Facts.pdf](http://www.granby.k12.ct.us/uploaded/faculty/wyzika/Dice%20and%20Card%20Games%20to%20Practice%20Math%20Facts.pdf). Keep the games simple and fun.
- play board games
- involve your child when shopping or doing errands to show them how we use math all day long. They can help add up the total of your purchases, calculate the savings for sales, figure out distances when doing errands, and so on.



Purpose is an important part of summer as well. Even during the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, help your child to feel purposeful by having regular responsibilities to help with at home. While your child may be young, even preschoolers can help set the table, fold the laundry, put the laundry away, make their bed and help with dishes. Older children can help with the garden, help change beds, help put away groceries and help prepare dinner. Children and youth may be ready to think about volunteering to help neighbours or fund-raise for a specific charity. Feeling purposeful helps build children's self confidence at home and in our community.

Grade 5 Farewell

5 On Tuesday, June 25th, 1:00 pm we will be saying good-bye to our grade 5 students. We will be celebrating their last year and final days during the afternoon. **Parents are invited to attend this event in the gym.** This is a special time of year and our grade 5s come through with flying colours. I want to thank the teachers who are working to make this day special. Also a thank you to Mrs. Evans for organizing their song and Ms. Rebstock for putting together the strings presentation. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

On Monday, June 24th at 1:00 a number of our grade 5 students will perform in the year-end variety show. The students have been rehearsing for only a short time this year but nevertheless we know that they will be wonderful. All classes will have the opportunity to attend in the afternoon. **Parents of performers are welcome to attend.**

Grade 5 Variety Show

Heritage Fair

The heritage fair is an event where students first choose a topic in Canadian history to explore, sometimes a family or local story. They develop a question that stems from their curiosity about that topic, and set about finding sources to answer it. Students create unique projects highlighting their chosen aspect of Canadian history or culture and present their project to their classmates, parents and community. We had students from Division 4 take their projects to the district's showcase. Some of them went on to take their projects Fair that took place on Friday, May 10 at the Royal BC Museum.

Very Exciting News

Keira won three awards Lieutenant-Governor's Award & Creativity in Presentation & Stellar Certificate for her project about **Working on the CPR**

Trevor won the Victoria HarbourCats Sports Award for his project on **Jacques Plante**

Kyle won the Stellar Certificate for his project on **Maple Syrup**

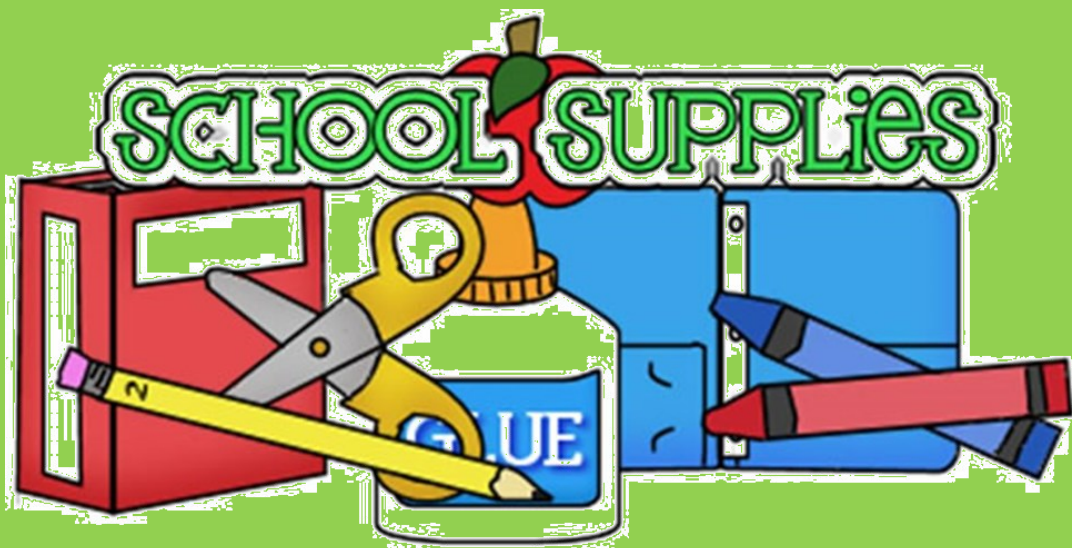
Jailyn won an Honourable Mention for her project on **Cedar Trees**

Lily won an Honourable Mention for her project on **D'Arcy Island**

There were close to 80 children at the fair from all over the Island, so winning these awards is quite significant. The children not only worked hard but they had fun at the same time. Learning can be fun when you are interested in what you are studying.



to the Regional Heritage



School Supply Order

To help make Back to School as easy as possible for parents, Staples offers School Tools—complete school supply kits for students containing supplies that have been selected, endorsed and approved by your child's school principal.

Go to staplesschooltools.ca and click on the 'Place your order here' button. Choose the option to purchase 1 or multiples of the same kit, and proceed to find your reference number using the drop down menu, or entering the reference number provided below.

There are 2 ordering options per grade:

Option 1 includes the core supplies for the school year.

Option 2 includes the core supplies, as well as additional items that your child may use during the school year.

All orders must be paid and registered by:

July 21, 2019

Grade/Option	Reference #
Kindergarten EN/FR - Option 1	F7EC69DD-57677
Kindergarten EN/FR - Option 2	82748FF1-F7724
Grade 1 EN/FR - Option 1	3CFA7BC9-57678
Grade 1 EN/FR - Option 2	12F42EB5-F7726
Grade 2 EN/FR - Option 1	CCDED66E-67679
Grade 2 EN/FR - Option 2	72E7DA73-F7729
Grade 3 EN/FR - Option 1	8A092E25-67680
Grade 3 EN/FR - Option 2	529EB362-F7731
Grade 4 EN/FR - Option 1	14226FF0-67681
Grade 4 EN/FR - Option 2	D2A95D8B-F7732
Grade 5 EN/FR - Option 1	CDC759E0-67682
Grade 5 EN/FR - Option 2	02EABAB2-F7733

Don't want to pay online? If you choose to pay at your local Staples store, please bring this letter before **July 21, 2019**, and they will process cash, cheque or debit card payments for the kit of your choice.

Note: All lists may be previewed online prior to purchasing at staplesschooltools.ca. Defective items may be exchanged upon presentation of your payment confirmation.

Supply kits will be delivered to the school and available for pick up during the first week of classes.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole at willowssupplies@gmail.com