

École Willows School

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Principal's Message

Dear Willows' Families,

It is hard to believe that this is our last school newsletter, and my last newsletter to you all. The school year has come to a close, and our hearts and minds are filled to the brim. It has been a great year! There has been so much to celebrate. Again, and again, our students have made us proud with their accomplishments and achievements. Whether it is in the domain of fine arts, academics, athletics, computer technology, or 'Imagineering', our students have done such amazing things.

We continue to believe that the strength of our community lies in our whole-hearted passion to make École Willows School an extraordinary place of learning for our children. Throughout this year Dianne and I have visited, and worked in, many of the classrooms and we have seen for ourselves the very real importance of that adult-student bond and the difference that it makes in the success of a child.

We thank you for entrusting your children to us this year. We have enjoyed working with all of the students in our care and have seen growth, development and skill acquisition in all of the boys and girls.

To those of you who are leaving us for new places and adventures, we wish you all the best. Congratulations to our very capable Grade 5 students who are on to a new stage in their academic career! You've all been a gift to us this year and will undoubtedly be a great asset to your new schools.

And now to all our students, we have loved working and learning with you this year. You have all come so far and we are proud of you. The staff looks forward to seeing you again in September, to hear all your stories of the summer and to share in your new learning experiences.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a simple "Thank You". You have made my years at Willows more than any educator could wish for. I have been blessed with your support, friendship, and trust. I cannot think of any greater gifts to take with me.

Wendy

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Dates to Remember

- Tues. Sept. 3
School Begins 9:00-11:30 Gr. 1—5 students only
- Wed. Sept. 4
Kindergarten Visits
- Mon. Sept 23
Pro D Day—no school in session

AS
YOU
RETIRE



We want to thank Mme O'Rourke for being such a wonderful teacher. She came to Willows in September of 2005 and we are so happy that she decided to stay. Madame has always had high expectations of her students and they do rise to the challenge. She makes sure that there is always something exciting on the horizon for the kids to look forward to. I know that she has

truly enjoyed working with each one of her students because she is always eager to share what they were doing or how successful they have been. She also enjoys being part of the 'other stuff' that goes on at Willows. She has been a supporter and sponsor of the Swim Team for years, as well as the Cross Country Team, and let's not forget track and choir productions.

Mme O'Rourke is also a great colleague, sharing her ideas and excitement about her profession and the new curriculum. She has truly made a lasting impression on the students and staff of our school. Madame is looking forward to spending time at her summer home in Ontario, and finding new adventures to entertain herself.

We hope that her retirement wishes come true and that every now and then she will come back for a visit.

After all, we are family and there really is 'no place like home'.



MME O'ROURKE

Thanks - We couldn't have done it without you!

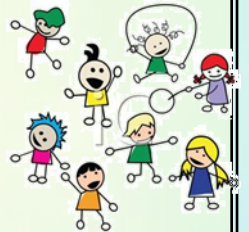
As well as saying good bye, it is also time to say thank you to so many people.

We all recognize the work **Teachers and Itinerant staff** do during the year and we are grateful for their dedication and professionalism. I think everyone will agree that we are very lucky to have the teachers we do—they really do bring out the best in our children. However, there are others who work in our school and are a huge part of creating our community and they cannot go unmentioned.

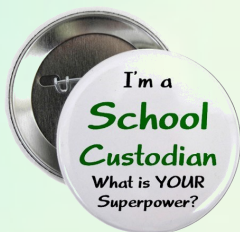


The **Educational Assistants**, Ms Piercey, Jackie, Ms Geniole, Ms Macharia, Mme Alarie, Mrs. K. Frankson, Mrs. McRae, Ms. Bates, Mr. Lee, Mr. Brown and Ms Schwabe who work with students throughout the day to ensure that our children's needs for support, encouragement, and guidance are met. They are extra ears and eyes that are invaluable to the teachers and administration.

The **Supervisors**, Ms. Whitehead, Ms. Gravel and Mrs. Griffin who work before and after classes, at recess and lunch everyday deserve a huge thank you. They are always ready and willing to pitch in where they are needed, and share the mounting responsibilities of supervising the students both inside and out.



Thank you to our **Custodians** who have worked so hard to keep our school looking great. They take such pride in making sure that our walks are safe, our hallways sparkle and our windows and walls remain untagged. I know how hard it is to keep my office tidy and clean, so I can't imagine the endless job of keeping our whole school in top condition. We know we can always call on **Mrs. Cullen** to rescue balls that have found their way to the roof, to make tables magically appear, to set up chairs for assemblies, and risers for concerts. She is one step ahead of us all the time. When something needs to be done, she has already started the paperwork. **Mr. Elliott and Mr. Palma** are always so gracious when we have evening events, and all the clutter, confusion and mess that goes along with them. They understand how important events are to our school community. We could not be as successful as we are, and do so much without their support.





A thank you to the **Office Staff** – Shauna, Shanna and Veronica. They all work to make the office and library run smoothly. Veronica can always be counted on to make sure our attendance is complete and to do the little things that come up at a moment's notice. Shanna is always ready to help anywhere and any way she can. Both these ladies have such a nice way with the children and they feel safe when they need their help. We can't thank them enough for their energy and dedication. In addition they are a wonderful support for our Admin Assistant, Shauna, and I know that she relies on them daily to help make the office run smoothly. Finally Shauna, whose assistance to me, and Mrs. Chretien, cannot be measured. She is one of the first people guests meet when they came to the school and she wins them over with her smile, calm manner and genuine interest in their reason for being in our office. She works hard to make sure the office is ready for anything and it definitely makes a difference. Thank you to all our wonderful Office Staff.

And now we have just heard that Shauna will be moving on to SJ Burnside school next year. We will really miss her and we all wish her well. She has been such a gift to the office and the school. We hope that she has as much fun at her new school as she has had with us—twice.



Finally we need to say thank you to our **PAC**. They have done wonderful things for the students and parents of the school this year. They started the year with having all our school supplies ready to go even though a new location had to be found. They have also held a number of family activities throughout the year. They are always looking for ways to engage and enrich our parent community. Our Blossom Tree Festival was a great success again this year and the children loved all the games, activities, and the food trucks. **AND** what can we say about Pizza / Sushi Day—YUM! The entire staff appreciates their dedication to working together to make École Willows School the best place to grow and learn.



Merci Beaucoup
Thank You

TO REMEMBER FOR SEPTEMBER



LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER, SCHOOL WILL BE BACK IN SESSION FOR EVERYONE, GRADES 1-5, ON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd FROM 9:00—11:30.

NEW KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ARE REMINDED TO SIMPLY

CHECK IN WITH THE OFFICE **BY TELEPHONE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN AUGUST.**

YOU DO NOT START UNTIL **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH.** PLEASE REFER TO THE LETTER THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE BY MAIL SHORTLY.

CURRENT WILLOWS STUDENTS WHO ARE CHANGING PROGRAMS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE **GO TO THE LIBRARY** ON THE FIRST DAY AND YOU WILL BE PLACED IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM.

STUDENTS NEW TO THE SCHOOL **WILL MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE LIBRARY** WHEN THE BELL RINGS AND YOU WILL BE PLACED IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM.

RETURNING STUDENTS WILL MEET AND LINE UP **IN THEIR USUAL SPOTS.** THEY WILL BE PICKED UP BY THEIR LAST YEAR'S TEACHER AND TAKEN TO THEIR CLASSROOM FOR THE MORNING.

ALL GRADE 1—5 STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 11:30 ON SEPT. 3RD.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY SCHOOL SUPPLIES ON THE FIRST DAY. STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SUPPLIES FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK FROM THEIR TEACHERS.

FOR FAMILIES NEW TO THE AREA, REGISTRATION WEEK IS

AUGUST 26TH—AUGUST 30TH, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM.

PLEASE COME DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE AND BRING WITH YOU YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE, CARE CARD, AND PROOF OF CATCHMENT RESIDENCY.



CPF Canadian Parents for French
Victoria

French Classes for Immersion Parents

- * PRE-LEVEL 1 Course for Parents with no or very little French
- * For parents of children in K-3 French Immersion
- * Learn basic French to support your child's schoolwork
- * Learn strategies to help your child read & write in French
- * Taught by an experienced elementary FI teacher

Location: École Quadra

Cost: \$60 with CPF membership*; \$85 without

8 Classes: Wednesday, Sept 25th - Nov. 13th, 2019

Time: 7-9 pm

*CPF membership = \$25/year



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FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS GR.S 1—5 TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd

FIRST DAY FOR K STUDENTS - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th

SCHOOL BASED PRO—D DAY— MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd

INDIVIDUAL PHOTO DAY— THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

Mark your
calendar!

École Willows School Calendar for 2019—2020

September 2019

Tuesday, September 3, 2019	Classes resume 9:00 – 11:30
Monday, September 23, 2019	Professional Development Day - classes not in session

October 2019

Monday, October 14, 2019	Thanksgiving – Statutory Holiday
Friday, October 25, 2019	Professional Development Day - classes not in session

November 2019

Monday, November 11, 2019	Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
Friday, November 22, 2019	Professional Development Day - classes not in session

December 2019

Friday, December 20, 2019	Last day of classes before Winter Break
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January 2020

Tuesday, January 6, 2020	Classes resume after Winter Break
Monday, January 27, 2020	Professional Development Day —classes not in session

February 2020

Friday, February 14, 2020	Professional Development Day - classes not in session
Monday, February 17, 2019	Family Day—Statutory Holiday

March 2020

Friday, March 13, 2020	Last day of classes before Spring Break
Monday, March 30, 2020	Classes resume after Spring Break

April 2020

Friday, April 10, 2020	Good Friday—Statutory Holiday
Monday, April 13, 2020	Easter Monday—Statutory Holiday

May 2020

Friday, May 15, 2020	Professional Development Day - classes not in session
Friday, May 18, 2020	Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday

June 2020

Thursday, June 25, 2020	Last day of classes for the 2019/20 school year
Friday, June 26, 2020	Administrative Day – classes not in session

enjoy

SUMMER

HOLIDAYS

