



May 5, 2023

# ÉCOLE WILLOWS SCHOOL

Update



## Coming up:

May 10—Class Photos

May 12—Rugby Tournament Lambrick Secondary

*Parent Organized Grade 5 Celebration Oak Bay Recreation Centre*

*Wear Blue in recognition of MPS Awareness Day (see below)*

May 15 to 18—Rainbow Week

*(Monday—Orange/Red, Tuesday- Green/Yellow Wednesday- Blue/Purple, Thursday-Rainbow)*

May 17—PAC Fun Lunch <https://www.willowspac.ca/funlunch>

*PAC AGM 7pm in library with Zoom link to listen in <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89813497277>*

May 18—Grade 5 Visits to middle schools (afternoon)

May 19—Professional Development Day—No School

May 22—Victoria Day—No School

May 23—Track Meet

May 25 -Parent Education Evening (for parents of children Grade 3, Grade 4 and Grade 5)

*Jenifer Gibson from Island Sexual Health 6:30—7:30 Willows Gym*

May 26—PAC organized Blossom Tree Festival

May 29—Bike / Roll / Walk to school week

May 31—PAC Fun Lunch <https://www.willowspac.ca/funlunch>

## Student Class Placements for September 2023

Please see the link for more information about our student class placement process for 2023 / 2024. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dianne Chretien, Vice Principal or Brenna O'Connor, Principal.

<https://willows.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2022/04/Willows-Student-Class-Placement-Process.pdf>

## Class Pictures

Class pictures will be taken on May 10. Please remember to bring your smile to school!



## Student Enrollment 2022 2023 and Students Moving Away

If you know that your K—4 children will NOT be returning to Willows in September, please contact the office as soon as possible. Knowing how many students we expect in September really helps with our planning for a smooth start in September.

## Rainbow Week

May 15 to May 18 is Rainbow Week. We will be celebrating the diversity of gender identity and sexual orientation in our families and our community through stories, classroom activities and a Rainbow dress up day on Thursday, May. We are committed to supporting everyone in our community to feel supported, included and safe to be who they are.



## Sports and Clubs at Willows

Thank you so much to both of our staff and parent volunteers for supporting our volleyball, track and rugby teams! It is wonderful seeing our students enjoying these opportunities.

Chess club is on Thursdays at lunch time. Thank you to Mr. Button for organizing this for our students! They are having a great time.

## Musical—Willows Forever

Thank you to Mrs. Evans, Mrs. McKee, Mme Fox, Mrs. O'Shea, Ms. Deckha and all of our staff and parent volunteers for organizing the school musical this year! It was so wonderful to see our community all together. Congratulations to our cast, choirs and crew for amazing performances!



## Wear Blue for International MPS Awareness Day

Join the school community for Willow's first annual celebration of International MPS Awareness Day on May 12th! Simon, a Grade 1 student in Mrs. McKee's class, lives with MPS (mucopolysaccharidosis) Type 4A, also known as Morquio syndrome. He and his family - including his twin sister, Isabel, and big brother, Spencer, would love to see as many students and teachers as possible wearing blue that day. Teacher and parent resources are available here - <https://curemps.ca/blog/mpsdayresources2023/> - and there will be a few related kids books available in the library.

## Traffic Safety Commission Partnership Project

Thank you to our school liaison officer Natalie Mishrigi for coordinating this traffic safety project. She has been at Willows along with Oak Bay Police introducing the new LED Stop signs and vests at school crosswalks to the school crossing guards and community. Expect to see members at Willows before and after school showcasing the equipment, promoting crosswalk safety and encouraging drivers. The equipment was funded by the CRD Traffic Safety Commission as a partnership project.



## Save the Date—Parent Education Evening May 25

Jennifer Gibson from Island Sexual health will be joining us in our gym on May 25 at 6:30 to share her Approachable Adult workshop evening prior to Grade 4 and 5 maturation presentations in June. This is open to any parent who would like to come and will be most relevant to those who have children in Grade 4 and 5.

## A Message from our Library...

A reminder to please save your gently used books for our first book binge at Willows. This is a great opportunity to encourage your child to keep reading over the summer break!

Gear up for new reading material by simply bringing in your child's gently used books (i.e. fiction, non-fiction, chapter books, picture books, comic books, etc...please note: board books and toddler books are too young for our students, but they can be donated to the 1000x5 book bin in the office). Students will be given one ticket for each book they bring in (up to 3 tickets per student, any books brought in over that amount will be donated to the Book Binge). In June your child's class will come to the library to cash in their tickets and shop for gently used books. The idea is that every student will receive at least one "new" book to keep.

Your child may drop books off to Madame Skinner at the library during class visits in **June**. Please clearly label any bags with your child's name and teacher/division to be sure they get credit for the books they bring in. If you have any questions please email our Teacher-Librarian, Madame Andrea Skinner at [askinner@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:askinner@sd61.bc.ca).



## Head Lice Awareness

Head lice are common in BC communities. Although they are a bother, head lice are not a health risk.

Head lice spread quickly by close, head-to-head contact. Lice cannot live on furniture or carpet, and they cannot jump or fly. There may be few or no symptoms, but itching may occur.

You can help by:

- Checking your child's head with the wet combing method of detection once a week throughout the year.
- Review the pamphlet [Wet Combing – How to Get Rid of Head Lice](#),
- Encouraging your child to wear their hair tied back.
- Treating if you notice live lice on your child's head.
- Reminding family and friends about the importance of routine head checks, using the wet combing method.

For more information:

- Your local [Public Health Unit](#)
- Read the HealthLink BC File on [Head Lice HealthLink BC File #06 Head Lice](#)