



August 30, 2023

# ÉCOLE WILLOWS SCHOOL

Update



## Welcome Back!

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer! We are so excited to see students back at school on Tuesday!

Students will be spending time in their former classrooms for the first week of school. It has been a busy summer with families moving into our community and families leaving. This gives us time to confirm how many students will be attending Willows for the 2023/24 school year. Please check your email regularly during the first week of school. We will be letting you know when we will be moving to our new classes and you will also be receiving a welcome email from your child's new teacher.

Below you will find information about the first week of school.

## September 2023 Start Up

***Please meet your 2022/ 2023 class at your previous meeting place at 9 am on Tuesday.***

***New students, please meet in the library (the library doors are near the front entrance of the school).***

Monday, September 4	Tuesday, September 5	Wednesday, September 6	Thursday, September 7	Friday, September 8
Labour Day	<b>First Day</b> <b>9:00—11:30</b> Grade 1 to 5 Returning students meet your previous teacher at your meeting place New students meet in the library near front entrance)	<b>First Full Day</b> Grade 1 to 5 8:45—2:37  Students in previous year's class	<b>Full Day</b> Grade 1 to 5 8:45—2:37  Students in previous year's class	<b>Full Day</b> Grade 1 to 5 8:45—2:37  Students in previous year's class

***New students to Willows in Grades 1 to 5 will be placed with same age peers until we move into our new classes.***

***New Kindergarten students please see the schedule for [gradual entry](#) that you received at the end of June. Please join us for the scheduled events that work for your family. We are looking forward to meeting you!***

## School Supplies

This year the school will order supplies for all students. ***If you have not purchased supplies yet***, the link to purchase school supplies for the school is open. You can visit the school website and click the link “school cash online payments”. You will be prompted to either sign in or register. We ask families to contribute \$40 for each child if you are able to pay.

<https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>.

***Please note that you will not need to pick up supplies from the school. Your child’s teacher will provide them with supplies they need when they come to school.*** We are encouraging families to order through the school as this allows teachers to order what is needed for their class, reduce extra or left-over supplies, and provide consistency in each class. All funds will be used to pay for students’ school supplies.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

## School Calendar and Schedule 2023 / 2024

Please see the link to our school year calendar and schedule on the school website with important dates, holidays and non-instructional days.

<https://willows.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2023/06/Willows-School-Calendar-2023-2024.pdf>

We also have a printable monthly calendar on our website.

<https://willows.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2023/08/Willows-School-Calendar-23-24-for-families.pdf>

## Welcome New Staff

We would like to welcome our new staff to Willows

Carey Nickerson—Vice Principal and PE	Sandra Gabaglia—French Immersion Grade 3 / 4 with Mme Shapiro
Shauneen Koch—Counsellor	Anna Weston—English Grade 3 / 4 with Mr. Wardell
Kasidy Lafleur-Johnson French Immersion 4 / 5	Kate Walker French Immersion 3 / 4

## Child Care at École Willows Elementary

Please see the message below from our District Principal, Charmaine Shortt.

Accessing child care can be a stressful process for many families. The Greater Victoria School District recognizes the demand and has a clear mandate for expanding quality child care on school grounds and we are working tirelessly alongside care providers to promote growth in our community.

The Greater Victoria School District prioritizes available school space for Before & After Care. We have a process in place to select child care providers when space is available. This is a transparent and thoughtful process that ensures quality and inclusive child care. All community child care providers are welcome to apply.

In addition to utilizing available space within the school, we are pleased to share that new stand-alone studio units are also being built by the Facilities Department of the Greater Victoria School District. The completed units are then placed on school grounds to create more space and access to child care.

Currently, 25 new child care units for Elementary Schools across the District have been developed. École Willows Elementary will benefit from this ongoing project in the near future. Updates will be shared as new information becomes available.

If you are currently seeking child care, the [Child Care Resource and Referral Centre](#) has up to date lists of available child care across Greater Victoria.

Please feel welcome to connect if you have any questions; [cshortt@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:cshortt@sd61.bc.ca)

Warm regards,

*Charmaine Shortt*

District Principal

Early Learning & Child Care

