



October 19, 2023

ÉCOLE WILLOWS SCHOOL

Update



Coming up:

Friday, October 20—Professional Development Day (no school)

Wednesday, October 25—Cross Country Finals 3:45

Thursday, October 26—PAC Fun Lunch

Friday, October 27—PAC organized Dance

Tuesday, October 31—Halloween (see below for more information)

Wednesday, November 1—Parent Teacher Conferences Early Dismissal 11:50 am

Sunday, November 5—Daylight Savings (clocks go back one hour)

Friday, November 10—Remembrance Day Assembly

Monday, November 13—no school (Remembrance Day Observed)

Monday, November 20—no school Professional Development Day

Halloween

Students at Willows can wear costumes on Tuesday, October 31 for Halloween. Below are things to remember when dressing up at school:

- Make it fun; not scary and remembering that cultures are not costumes
- Something comfortable as your child needs to be able to move freely to participate in all school activities
- No Halloween masks
- No weapons (axes, swords, knives, guns, sticks, etc...)
- Nothing fragile that could potentially break or be lost easily

[Halloween safety tips for parents from the Canadian Red Cross](#)

CULTURE IS NOT A COSTUME

- Race is not a costume**
- Culture is not a costume**
- Religious faith is not a costume**
- Gender is not a costume**
(Gender switching for humour or to mock)
- Trauma is not a costume**
(hangman's noose/ weapons)

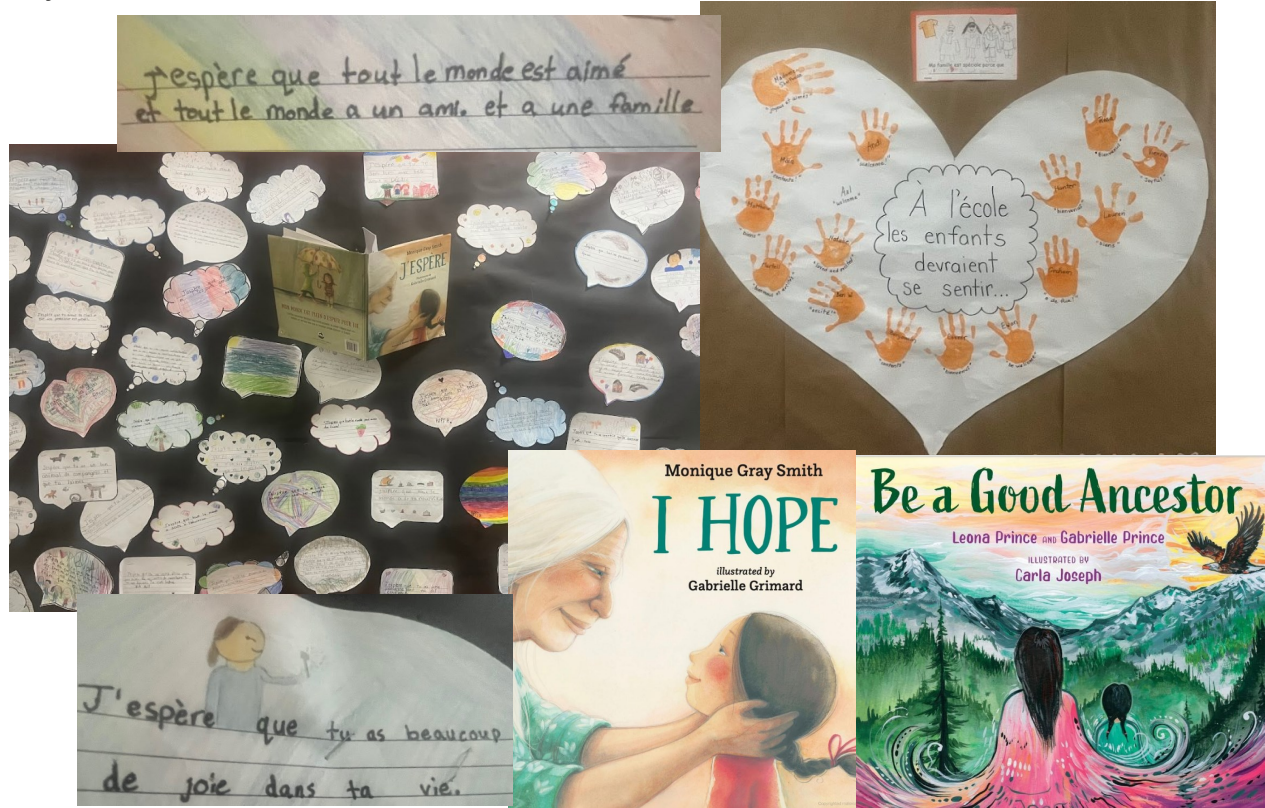
KEEP HALLOWEEN SAFE AND FUN FOR EVERYONE!

One Learning Community

Greater VICTORIA School District

Every Child Matters

Below are some pictures to share some of our learning and books we have read during the National Week for Truth and Reconciliation. We are committed to continuing this learning throughout the school year.



Tour de Rock / Terry Fox Run

Willows was excited to host the Tour de Rock team on Thursday, October 5 and students enjoyed our Terry Fox Run that afternoon. Our community raised over \$1300 for cancer research!



Clubs at Willows

Cross Country Running

Thank you to Mme Dann, Mrs. Duyndam, Mme Walker and our parent volunteers for organizing Cross—Country. Students participating in cross country will take part in a cross country meet with other schools in our district on October 25.

Choir

Thank you to Ms. Winthrop, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. McKee for providing opportunities for students to participate in choir this year. Our Grade 4 / 5 Choir is singing on Wednesdays at recess.



Cold and Flu Season Reminders

We have reached that time of the year again! It is cold and flu season. As students return to classrooms for the new school year, as the leaves start to turn and the temperature drops, the tissues and sneezes begin to appear. Additionally, with COVID-19 circulating within our community, it is important to take extra precautions.

Please remind your child of the following important habits:

- Make sure to wash hands frequently.
- Avoid touching face, mouth, or eyes.
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing by leaning into your elbow or using a disposable tissue. Quickly throw away any used tissues and wash or sanitize your hands after.
- Respect the personal space bubbles of other students.

Stay home when sick!

Please monitor your children daily for any cold or flu-like symptoms. In accordance with the Public Health Guidelines, students and staff are asked to stay home when sick or displaying any symptoms of sickness. If students develop symptoms throughout the day while they are at school, they will be reminded to use tissues or lean into their elbow to cover their coughs and sneezes. If required, an office staff member will contact you to arrange a pickup of your sick child. These protocols are in place to lower the risk of transmission of communicable disease and to keep our students and staff safe and healthy.

Cell Phones and Cameras at School

If possible, please do not send your child with a cell phone to school. Students are always welcome to come to the office to call their parents. However if it is important for you to be able to communicate with your child before and after school, please remind your child that cell phones need to be turned off and in their backpack at all times during the school day. Students should not watch YouTube videos, take pictures of other students at any time during the school day including the morning while waiting for the bell and after school while waiting to be picked up.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Accessibility Act Information for Families

In accordance with the Accessible BC Act, GVSD 61 has launched an accessibility feedback tool, and is looking for members of our learning community to join the GVSD Accessibility Advisory Group as we finalize the first multi-year GVSD Accessibility Plan. [Click here to learn more and/or provide feedback.](#)

Clothing for Wet and Cold Weather

It is getting chilly outside! Students go outside for morning and lunch recess most days. Please make sure your child is dressed for west-coast weather with waterproof coat and warm, dry footwear.