



April 18, 2024

ÉCOLE WILLOWS SCHOOL



Update

Coming up:

May 2—PAC Fun Lunch

May 8—Class Pictures

May 9—Student Led Conferences / Early Dismissal 11:50

May 13 to 16—Rainbow Week

May 16—Grade 5 student transition day (afternoon visits to middle schools)

May 17—Professional Development Day no school

May 20—Victoria Day no school

May 23—PAC Fun Lunch

May 24—PAC Blossom Tree Festival and Wear Blue to Cure MPS Day

Willows Principal and Vice Principal Changes for the 2024 / 2025 School Year

At this time of year, our district and school begin to plan for changes in staffing for the coming year. There will be a change to our school leadership team for the coming school year. I will be moving to Quadra School as Principal and Carey Nickerson will be moving to Strawberry Vale School as Vice Principal. Both of us look forward to continuing to connect with our students, families and staff over the next few months. It has been such a privilege to learn and work with our Willows families and staff over the past 5 years.

Cindy Harte, the current Principal of Doncaster School, will be joining the Willows community as Principal and Stef Sloboda, current Vice Principal of Lambrick Park, will be the new Vice Principal. We will plan visits over the next few months to introduce both of them to the Willows school community. We know everyone will welcome them in their new roles.

Brenna O'Connor
Principal

Student Class Placements for September 2024

Please see the link for more information about our student class placement process for 2024 / 2025. If you have any questions, please reach out to Carey Nickerson, 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>

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.

Grade 5 Celebration

Grade 5 families, please save the date for our Grade 5 celebration on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 25.

Grade 5 parents are invited to our assembly beginning at 12:45. This will be followed by our bike parade where our community will send off our Grade 5 students as they ride 6 laps of the school (one for every year at Willows). There will be an opportunity for parents to take photos of their Grade 5 students with their friends and teachers.

Parent Volunteers Needed for our Musical

We are preparing for our musical on June 12 and 13. Parent Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Helping with costumes at lunch practices and before and during performances
- Creating props (nicely wrapped empty boxes and a container) / Background for the stage– game show set
- Helping students with moving onto the stage, back to classes and supervision while they wait
- Moving items from the music room to the gym

If you are able to help, please contact Mrs. McKee hmckee@sd61.bc.ca

Rainbow Week

May 13 to May 16 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.



Wear Blue for International MPS Awareness Day

Join the school community for Willow's second annual celebration of International MPS Awareness Day on May 24th! Simon, a Grade 1 student in Mrs. Alexander'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/>. Thank you to our PAC for organizing ordering of T-shirts and for donating books to our library!

PAC has set up the opportunity to order a CureMPS t-shirt, please go to your Fun Lunch account at willows.hotlunches.net. Deadline is April 26, 2024 11:59pm. Ordered shirts will be distributed to children on May 23rd so be sure to look in your child's backpack!

From our Library...

Please save your gently used books for our Book Binge

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 near 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 regular class visits. 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

Thank you Willows PAC!

A huge thank you to our Parent Advisory Council for funding the following projects this year:

- a school mural with artist Misha Smart
- an additional bottle filling station
- a screen outside our office to share information and pictures with our community
- playgrounds equipment for students to play with at recess

We will send updates with pictures as these projects are completed over the next few months. Thank you!

From our PAC...

Blossom Tree Festival

The Blossom Tree Festival is an annual community-wide event hosted by the Willows PAC for all members and families of the school community and neighborhood. Free dance party, outdoor games and activities. We couldn't do it without amazing volunteers, please consider signing up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA9AA2EA3FEC07-48575537-willows> Tickets will be sold for \$1/ticket to ride the bouncy castles, maze, and obstacle courses and for snacks. Order discounted advance tickets (\$0.75/ticket) online at willows.hotlunches.net. You can also donate to the Morquio Research Fund for bonus tickets.

Willows PAC Parent Education Night on Diversity and Inclusion in Disability

Date/Time: May 28, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81939542841?pwd=kbXICzyFhfwQxbarK40h9PtUiUnATE.1>

Meeting ID: 819 3954 2841

Passcode: 829043

Join this event for an authentic conversation about disability in school. How do I talk about disability with my child? What's my role as a parent in shifting the culture around disability so that spaces in the school, on the playgrounds, at playdates, etc. are inclusive? Come and learn. [Speaker Details.](#)