

WILLOWGROVE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER #13

MAY 8, 2015



PRINCIPAL

Mr. Shane Armstrong

VICE PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Kristin Siba

SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Donnalee Weinmaster

SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Mr. Ray Morrison

[www.spsd.sk.ca/school/
willowgrove/Pages/
default.aspx](http://www.spsd.sk.ca/school/willowgrove/Pages/default.aspx)

Willowgrove School
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SCHOOL DAY:

Start: 8:40 a.m.

Recess: 10:25 a.m.-10:40 a.m.

Lunch: 11:33 a.m.-12:23 p.m.

Recess: 2:07 p.m.-2:22 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:15 p.m.

3:00 p.m. on Thursday



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Willowgrove Families,

It was wonderful to see so many of you last Friday as we celebrated Willowgrove School and gave students a chance to showcase their diverse cultures, talents, and interests. I was amazed to learn so many new things about our students, and am so proud to work amongst such a talented group of people!

We are into the last two months of the school year, and have many exciting events and activities planned, but most importantly lots of learning left to do as well! May and June are often when students make the most growth in learning, and as a staff we will be doing a variety of testing to track year end progress. This will include a kindergarten assessment called the Early Years Evaluation, alphabet recognition testing for Kindergarten and grade 1 students, Fountas and Pinnell benchmark reading assessment for grade 1—3 students, and the Jerry Johns reading inventory as well as a reading comprehension assessment called the RAD for grade 4—8 students. This information will help us evaluate student progress this year, but also assist us with setting school wide literacy goals for next year.

As a staff we are taking time in May to review different instructional strategies we have tried with students and measuring the impact they had on student learning. Grade-alike teachers will prepare short presentations to share with the rest of the staff, allowing us to learn from each other and discuss what has worked well and what we can do differently next year.

As we prepare for the fall, we anticipate a significant increase in enrolment. This will mean purchasing additional furniture, resources, and supplies, as well as hiring new staff members at various grade levels. We ask for your assistance to encourage families who plan to register with us for the fall to do so as soon as possible. This will make our preparations easier and more accurate.

Please review the details of the newsletter carefully as we have provided a variety of information about all that is going on at Willowgrove School.

Take care and have a great Mother's Day weekend!

Shane Armstrong

Appropriate School Clothing

Summer is approaching and hot sunny days are on the way. We ask that parents review the "School Attire" section of the handbook to help ensure all students are dressed appropriately. We will do the same with students in classes. In case you misplaced it, the handbook is available on the school web site under the tab "About" at the following link:

<http://www.spsd.sk.ca/school/willowgrove>

Yearbook Update

We are under way preparing our yearbook for the 2014 - 2015 school year. The cover will feature our wolf mascot, and the back will have a whole school photo of all staff and students. We will be taking this photo later in May or early June with the help of Picture Perfect. Pages will include student individual photo's, collages of class photos this year, and images of events and activities that have taken place. The cost will likely be approximately \$30 per book, and order forms will be available at the start of June.



Band and Choir Concert May 26th

There will be a band concert performed by our grade 6 - 8 students on Tuesday, May 26th. They will perform for the school at 1pm, then

again in the evening for families and friends at 7pm. The grade 4 - 8 Choir will also perform at the evening performance, but many are away on field trips that day so will not be performing in the afternoon. Come enjoy our talented musicians in the beautiful new gymnasium!

Traffic Drop Off

Please follow the traffic signs that guide traffic in the school pick up and drop off areas. The lane in front of the school is meant to be one way. Parents are invited to use the drop off zone along the south side of the building, but the staff parking lot is not a drop off area. We ask that parents do not drive through the staff lot.

Thanks to our Willow Tree Artist

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the extraordinary willow tree that was dedicated to our school last week. Kellie Bell, a local artist, generously shared her time and talents and created a beautiful painting to display in our atrium. This painting includes all staff and students working together to create the culture at Willowgrove School during the 2014/2015 school year. This painting is a tribute to those whose efforts are helping establish our roots. Every classroom has its own branch and every staff member and student has their own leaf with their name. If you have not seen this beautiful artwork, please come in and check it out! Thank you Kellie Bell, for sharing your vision and beautiful artistry. We are truly appreciative of your talents and generosity.

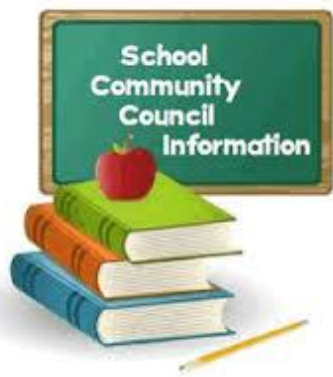


Playground Facebook Auction

Be sure to 'like' the Willowgrove Playground Facebook page at www.facebook.com/willowgroveplayground. The Playground Fundraising Committee is setting up an online Auction



running May 18 to 23. There will be hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise available. Please share the link with your friends and family and encourage them to bid!



Willowgrove School Staff Appreciation Week

The School Community Council, together with the Home & School, have set May 11 to 15, 2015 as a time to show our appreciation to our school staff. YOUR HELP is needed to make this event a success! Here are different ways to participate:

Gratitude Basket

Starting Mon, May 11 through Thurs, May 14, you and your children are welcome to leave cards, notes, and/or pictures of appreciation to any or all of the staff. A basket will be at the front desk at the school for you

to leave your card, and will then be distributed accordingly. Please take a minute and join in thanking our hard working staff!

Staff Room Treats

Parents are welcome to send treats, snacks, and drinks to be enjoyed by the staff throughout the week. We have set up a schedule for the various grades below. If you wish to participate, simply bring your item to the staff room by 8:30 am that day. Food items can be homemade or store-bought just please keep in mind we are a nut-free school. Alternatively, if you would sooner bring a little something to make the staff room inviting (flowers, plants, etc.) that would be great too!

Monday, May 11 - Kindergarten to Grade 2 (if no Kindergarten for your student that day, you are welcome to bring on Tues)

Tuesday, May 12 - Grades 3 and 4

Wednesday, May 13 - Grades 5 and 6

Thursday, May 14 - Grades 7 and 8

Catered Lunch/Door Prize Donations

On Friday, May 15 (PD day), a catered lunch will be provided for our staff. We are looking for donated items/gift cards/etc. to be used for door prizes for the lunch. If you or your place of business has items to donate, please email rainabrownmckinnon@sasktel.net to arrange drop off.

Thank you!!!

Spell-A-Thon

Our staff is working with the playground fundraising committee to run a Spell-A-Thon from May 8th to May 25th. Each student will receive a word list on Friday, May 8th. The words will be related to units of study in each class. Students will have a chance to practice the words and do vocabulary activities during class time. Students are asked to collect pledges from family and friends - either flat pledge amounts or pledges based on the number of words spelled correctly. Each student will also receive a pledge sheet on May 8th to keep track of funds raised. Paper copies will be sent home with each student. The test will take place on Wednesday, May 20th, and students will have until Monday, May 25th to return pledge sheets and money collected.



All funds raised will support adding play structures to the playground in Wallace Park. Any cheques collected must be written to "Willowgrove Playground".

iGen Program

The application deadline has been extended until May 15 for Saskatoon Public Schools' iGen Program.

iGen is short for "intergenerational classroom," a unique, experiential learning opportunity in which Grade 6 students spend one year in a classroom setting at Sherbrooke Community Centre. Students currently in Grade 5 may apply to the iGen program for September 2015. This life-changing experience is open to students from across the city, and the classroom is made up of students from many different neighbourhoods.

Students in the iGen classroom learn and work with their teacher, Sherbrooke residents and the staff of Sherbrooke. Together, learning of the curriculum occurs along with opportunities to spend time with those of different generations and with different gifts. Students are encouraged to find their own gifts and to create relationships with peers and residents.

For more information and to register and access forms, visit the iGen webpage. Printed packages with the application forms are also available at École College Park School and Sherbrooke Community Centre.

Celebrating Excellence

We are proud to recognize one of our staff members, Ryan Digneau as he provides leadership in and around the province. Mr. Digneau has been facilitating conferences/professional development opportunities including, "Responding to Children's Interests" & "Making Learning Visible In Kindergarten" offered through Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit. These workshops provide educators with opportunities to explore project-based inquiries with their students and examine foundations of early learning. Mr. Digneau supports teachers in creating learning environments, honouring home, family, culture and community, exploring inquiry and project-based learning in specific subject areas and using technology to document learning. It is our pleasure to recognize Mr. Digneau as he continues to not only provide engaging opportunities to learn for our students here at Willowgrove, but in and around the province.



DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 15, 2015	P.D. DAY—NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
MAY 18, 2015	VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY
MAY 21, 2015	GRADE 5—8 SCHOOL TRACK MEET
MAY 22, 2015	KINDERGARTEN SNEAK PEAK
MAY 26, 2015	1PM AND 7PM BAND/CHOIR CONCERTS
JUNE 2, 2015	HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING 6:30PM
	SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM 7:30PM