

The Willow Grove

November 2017
Volume 2, Edition 3



Willow Home Ed

3, 510-77 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2H 1C3

C: (403) 680-5124 E: josmith@willowhome.ca

Principal's Message

This is the first year offering student photos for our Willow Home Ed community, and I want to thank all the families that took part in our Home Educator's picture day; it was a success. We had over 60 students take advantage of this service, and the feedback so far is that families support this. Parents ordered the photos online, and student ID cards were mailed out to each family at no cost. If any families want to pick up their proofs, they are here in the office.

Your Home Education Managers are reporting that home visits are going very well. We are always impressed with the high quality of education that is being delivered in the home. If you need assistance or advice be sure to call us and let us know. Keep up the good effort!

November is also a time of remembrance and reflection. Remembrance Day just passed a few weeks ago; however, we should take time regularly to remember those who gave so much to ensure the freedoms that we now enjoy. We have much to be grateful for.

Joe Smith
Principal Willow Home Ed

"It's home education, your child's way."



FRIENDS OF WILLOW HOME ED.

Parents can chat with one another, ask questions and advice and organize outings and field trips. Please join us at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsOfWillowHomeEd/>

FIELD TRIP REVIEW

Willow students and parents had fun riding the waves, playing in the Splash Zone, and relaxing in the hot tub at Village Square Leisure Centre in November. Unfortunately the water slide was closed due to freezing. Several of the students asked for another swim day so they could enjoy the waterslide. We will plan another event for January, most likely at Westside Rec Centre, where the slide does not freeze. Watch our Facebook group and our December newsletter for details.

ADLC UPDATE

As of Oct. 20, ADLC Students who haven't been active within 90 days of their course start date will be automatically withdrawn from their course. If a student doesn't submit work within 60 days of their course start date, ADLC will email the student, the student's teacher, and Willow Home Ed with a 30-day warning message.

FALL RESOURCE CLAIMS

A reminder that Fall Resource Claims are due November 30th, 2017. Please include your program plan with your receipts, and update it as required. Every item claimed must appear on your program plan, and we cannot process your resource claim without a program plan.

There have been several changes to eligibility rules for reimbursement from Alberta Education for the 2017-18 school year. Of note, individual lessons (such as piano), are now allowed, as are Physical Education admissions (e.g., swimming), and Physical Education equipment. However, many categories of receipts (“classes”, “tangible assets”, and so on) now have a restriction of not more than half of your total funding (\$417.70) can be used in that category.

The resource claim form (broken into categories), as well as full updated rules from Alberta Education, can be found here: <http://willowhome.ca/resource-claims/> We have also provided instructions on filling out a claim, as well as a sample claim, to guide you.

Please send your claims to Third Academy, at Bay 3, 510 77 Ave SE, Calgary AB T2H 1C3, or give them to your Home Education Manager. Cheques will be mailed in late December.

NEWS FROM ALBERTA EDUCATION

Starting 2017-18 school year, the following high school courses cannot be taken for credit by students enrolled in a **junior high school**.

- All English as a Second Language courses
- All Green Certificate Program courses
- All intermediate-level (2000 series) and advanced-level (3000 series) CTS courses
- Career and Life Management (CALM) • Career Internship 10
- High School Knowledge & Employability occupational courses, including Workplace Readiness 10-4, Workplace Practicum 20-4, and Workplace Practicum 30-4
- Locally developed courses, with the exception of locally developed language courses
- Registered Apprenticeship Program 15–25–35
- Special Projects 10, 20, and 30
- Work Experience 15, 25, and 35

NB. If your junior high student has started or completed one of these courses this year, the course will be accepted by Willow Home Ed and the credits reported when the student reaches grade 10.

HIGH SCHOOL CORNER

DIPLOMA EXAMS AND MYPASS REGISTRATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

All grade 12 students taking core courses for credit are required to write Alberta Diploma Exams. For more information about Diploma Exams please visit the Alberta Education Website.

<https://education.alberta.ca/writing-diploma-exams/about-grade-12-diploma-exams/>

Here you will find:

- Courses that require a diploma exam
- Exemplars
- Schedule of exams
- Registration
- Rules for students
- Diploma Exam Weighting
- Frequently asked Questions.

Please note that starting in the 2017-2018 school year, all students can take up to twice the official time limit to write the diploma exam, if needed.

Students planning to write January diploma exams should have already registered either through MyPass or with the help of their Home Education Manager. Visit <https://education.alberta.ca/writing-diploma-exams/schedule/> to view dates and times for exams. Make sure to mark your exam dates on your calendar. Please note, Social Studies and English exams are both two-part exams written over two separate days.

Moving forward, we are encouraging students to register for diploma exams using the MyPass website. In order to do this you first need to register with MyPass. Please do this now, as the registration process takes a few weeks. A password will be sent by mail.

****April 12th is the deadline for registering for June diploma exams.****



We **STRONGLY** encourage our high school students to sign up with MyPass. This is the preferred way to register for diploma exams.

[MyPass.alberta.ca](https://mypass.alberta.ca) is an Alberta Education secure self-service website for Alberta students to:

- ✓ Order high school transcripts
- ✓ View diploma exam marks
- ✓ Register to write or rewrite diploma exams with online payment
- ✓ View and print Detailed Academic Reports (DAR)

- ✓ View progress towards a high school credential (diploma or certificate)
- ✓ View/update student personal information
- ✓ Order additional copies of an awarded credential in English or French
- ✓ Request diploma exam rescores
- ✓ View and print letters of confirmation of name, age and enrolment
- ✓ Provide third-party (including parents and guardians) access to student's myPass account

Here is how you sign up for myPass online:

- Go to myPass.alberta.ca
- Set up an Education Account or sign in with social media login
- Enter your [Alberta Student Number](#) and date of birth
- You will receive two things – an email with a URL and a physical letter with a four-digit PIN
- Once you have received both the email and the letter, go to the URL contained in the email and enter the four-digit PIN.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

This year's graduation ceremony will take place on June 15 at the Deerfoot Inn. If your high school student is interested in taking part, please contact Joe Smith at josmith@willowhome.ca for more details. Please note that all grade 12 students finishing this year are welcome to attend, whether they completed a diploma, finished courses of choice, or remained a home education student throughout their schooling.

HIGH SCHOOL MARKS SUBMISSIONS

Several families have inquired about getting credits applied to their DAR or Detailed Academic Report; they ask why the course, grade, or credits do not show up right away after handing in their work.

All schools in Alberta have a similar process of reporting grades and credits. Our process begins with a student reporting the completion of a course and their parents assigning a tentative grade to their work. Their work documents are handed in to their Home Education Manager. It is the Home Ed Manager's responsibility to ensure that the mark assigned is appropriate. We hold two team meetings a year where certified teachers with different course expertise get together to check the students' work. Each document is checked by several teachers. Once the work has been verified to match the mark given, it is then handed to the Principal for approval. He signs it and then it goes to the Executive Director for his signature and approval. Each school authority has a trained person who inputs the courses, grades and credits into the provincial wide data system called PASI. Once completed, the Executive Director has the final approval before the document is updated into the system. After final approval, administrators can access the student's updated DAR through special access or a student can get their info by registering with My Pass.

High schools follow this process at the end of each semester. Here at Willow, the two deadlines for High School students to hand in their work are January 7 and May 30. It would be far too difficult to begin the process each time an individual student completed a course. So there you have it.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our student spotlight is the place where our students can show what they have been doing; what they are passionate about. If you would like to include something (original art, poetry, short stories, video, articles, etc.) in a future newsletter, please send it to Cindy at cschnee@willowhome.ca. We will showcase one student per month.

Zamantha DeVera and her diorama of a savannah



From the Field (by Cindy)

I have been including some of the awesome resources I see at visits on the Friends of Willow Facebook group and thought I would include one here:

One of my students and I played with these fun story telling cubes <https://www.storycubes.com/>
Can you say "Dr. Who" cubes?

From the Vault (by Cindy)

Any Indiana Jones fans out there? We loved watching these [Adventures of Young Indiana Jones](#) shows (and accompanying documentaries) to supplement our history studies. There are three DVDs of which it appears two are still available at the CPL https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/search?t=smart&search_category=keyword&q=adventures+of+young+indiana+jones.

Then there is this amazing website <http://www.indyintheclassroom.com/index.asp> with links to lessons, games, books, other documentaries and lots of information. If I was still homeschooling, I'd be tempted to start an Indiana Jones history club!