

# The Willow Grove

October 2017  
Volume 2, Edition 2



## Willow Home Ed

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### Principal's Message

As the fall season descends on us we turn our thoughts toward those things we are grateful for. I am grateful for a loving family, my trusted friends, and for the freedoms we enjoy living in this beautiful country. This year Canada celebrates its 150 birthday and the people of this great land will find their own way to celebrate from coast to coast. I would encourage you as homeschoolers to participate in some way, in your own way, as we continue down this road of learning and exploring together. And as you discover more about the country we all call home, you will hopefully discover more about yourself.

I want to thank all our families for joining us this year at Willow Home Ed. Our enrollment numbers are up as our homeschooling family continues to grow. I am grateful for all the positive comments and feedback that I have received these past weeks about your Home Education Managers and how they are meeting the educational needs of your families. We continuously to strive to serve you better each year.

May you all find joy and success in the coming school year.

Joe Smith  
Principal Willow Home Ed

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



Diwali rangoli by Grace Fietz

## Happy Diwali

### Upcoming Dates:

**Nov 14 10am-noon** Swimming at the Village Square Leisure Centre

**Nov 19 5:00-7:00pm** Private shopping at Mastermind Toys – Shawnessy location

**Nov 30** Fall Resource Claims are due. Please find forms and other important information here: <http://willowhome.ca/resource-claims/> Mail or bring your forms and receipts together with your program plans into the school or hand to your HEM at your fall visit.

### Come join us on Facebook at 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/>

Willow is also organizing some field trips this year in the Calgary area. Ann-Marie, Home Education Manager, has a poll going of other field trip possibilities and welcomes your feedback and suggestions (on FB group above.)



## PRIVATE SHOPPING EVENING AT MASTERMIND TOYS SHAWNESSY

**DATE:** Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 5:00-7:00

**LOCATION:** Shawnessy Mastermind Toys 600-16061 MacLeod Trail SE,  
Calgary, AB T2Y 3S5

Mastermind Toys is known for their large selection of unique, educational, and fun toys & books. Come and join us for a night of toy demonstrations and shopping, as Mastermind Toys will open exclusively for the families of Willow Home Ed and Third Academy. Mastermind Toys will have extra staff on hand to help with all our shopping needs. All purchases will be 10% off and they offer free gift-wrapping with every purchase. For more information about the products available please visit their website at <https://www.mastermindtoys.com>. Please RSVP to [asparks@WillowHome.ca](mailto:asparks@WillowHome.ca)

## 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](mailto:cschnee@willowhome.ca). We will showcase one student per month.



Chloe's project is entitled Living and Non-living things and here is what she has to say about it.

"My appreciation of God's amazing creation inspires me to make this simple but meaningful art. This reminds me of how God wonderfully created our world and how big things and came from small beginnings. How living and non-living move our everyday lives. As a little child, I do love clean environment with trees and plants that give us fresh air to breath."

Living and Non-living Things by Chloe DeVera

## HIGH SCHOOL CORNER

### SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Students in High School are invited to incorporate their own interests into their plan to achieve credits, in combination with the content and learning outcomes established by Alberta Education. Willow Home Ed supports and encourages students taking charge of their learning, developing ways to exercise self-determination and agency, and expressing their personal creativity and passions.

The first step is to let your Home Education Manager (HEM) know which course you want to do, and she or he will send you a **Course Outline**, which summarizes the learning outcomes and helps guide you in creating a **Proposal**. We have course outlines for the four core academic areas (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies) as well as other popular courses, such as Phys Ed, Work Experience, CALM and Special Projects. For other courses, such as in the arts, or CTS courses like Foods or Computer Science, your HEM will direct you to where the learning outcomes from Alberta Education can be found.

With the **Proposal** documents, parents and students create detailed plans for learning which meet the learning outcomes of Alberta Education—using whatever resources and activities suit the student best. In the core courses in grade 12, where students will write diploma exams, we recommend students use at least some “Alberta Education approved” resources. Within these parameters, students are free to structure and pace their learning to meet their own needs and life demands.

For example: With **English Language Arts**, students are free to choose novels, short stories, essays, film and drama that match their grade level and interest, and need not come solely from the “Authorized Novels and Nonfiction Annotated List” from Alberta Education, though we strongly recommend familiarity with works on this list for the grade 12 diploma exam. Students passionate about science fiction can choose science fiction novels, plays, or films. The specific novels, plays and so on should be listed on **Proposal Part A**. Your HEM will look over your Proposal, make suggestions if particular learning outcomes are missing, and then submit it to our principal, Joe Smith, for approval.

With **Science** or **Mathematics**, students are free to continue using the resources and programs they have in younger years, such as Crash Course, Khan Academy, or Math U See, supplementing where necessary to meet learning outcomes. They need not make a radical switch away from programs they have had success with for years.

With **Physical Education**, students already deeply involved in particular team sports or individual pursuits are free to continue and earn credit for these activities, supplementing to meet other requirements as described in the Willow Home Ed course outline.

With **Fine Arts**, students can pursue their interests in music, drama, painting, and so on through classes, lessons, and performances, again receiving credit.

**Special Projects** are often the vehicle for students to develop and present their learning in a variety of pursuits. Our students have done projects in everything from Game Theory to Creative Writing, Show Jumping to Paleontology, and Religious Ministry to American Sign Language. Contact your Home Education Manager for assistance.

Some of our students having fun in the hamster wheel at the corn maze and at InjaNation.



We had a great turn out for our meet up at InjaNation. Nineteen students bounced on trampolines, played dodge ball, raced through obstacle courses, climbed walls and battled it out in jousting competitions. Join us for our next event, swimming at Village Square Leisure Centre, November 14, 10:00-noon.