

# The Willow Grove

September 2017

Volume 2, Edition 1



## Willow Home Ed

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

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

### Principal's Message

I hope all of our families enjoyed a safe and fun filled summer break. We are excited to be back in full swing and ready to start another successful year of homeschooling with you. Our home education managers are Ann-Marie Sparks, Cindy Schnee, Risa Kawchuk and myself. I am privileged to work with this highly skilled and energetic group.

I want to thank all those who attended our Fall Open House on Thursday September 14. It was a success. The best part of our job is meeting with our families and getting to know them. I look forward to meeting many of you at the many activities we are attending this fall.

**Volunteers needed:** If there is anyone who has a few hours to volunteer, I would welcome some help in the office to do some filing. It would be much appreciated.

Your Home Education Manager will be contacting you soon to help you with your Program Plans and to set up your fall visit. All the Best!

Joe Smith

Principal Willow Home Ed

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

# Happy Fall!



### Upcoming Dates:

**Oct 5th** 1-3 Fun at Inja-Nation

**Oct 12** 10:30 Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary  
(organized by a Willow Home Ed parent)

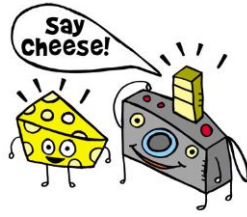
**Oct 24** photos/ID card day

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

**Thank you to those who worked in the office this past year. We really appreciate the help!**



## PHOTOS ANYONE?



Student photo/ID card day at Third Academy and Willow Home Ed is October 24, at the school. Please send the following information to Joe Smith at [josmith@willowhome.ca](mailto:josmith@willowhome.ca) before Oct 10 if you would like to have a sitting time: Student Last Name, First Name, Grade Level, and Date of Birth. There is no cost and photos and ID cards can be ordered online at a later time.



## FACEBOOK GROUPS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO OUR WILLOW HOME ED FAMILIES

**Willow Home Ed page** -- where news and official announcements are posted, like for our Open Houses, graduation dinner, or links to the updated home education reimbursement guidelines from Alberta Education. To join, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-Home-Ed-1805892722980242>

**Friends of Willow Home Ed group** -- where parents can chat with one another, ask questions and advice, and organize outings and field trips. Willow is also organizing some field trips this year in the Calgary area. Ann-Marie, one of our home education managers, also has a poll going of other field trip possibilities and welcomes your feedback and suggestions. Please join us

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

**Calgary and Area Homeschool Events & Classes group** - A group specifically for helping Home Ed parents keep track of all the many events and classes going on in the Calgary area. To join the group go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CalgaryHomeschoolEvents/>. Be sure to click on the 'events' tab to see the current list of activities.



Willow Home Ed subscribes to some educational websites, and as a member of Willow, you get free access. Contact your Home Education Manager for usernames and passwords.

**Exambank** ([www.exambank.com](http://www.exambank.com)) -- Click "AB K-12" tab

Exambank has quizzes and tests aligned to the Alberta curriculum, in all subject areas. We recommend this site for our high school students working for credit, as well for parents of students in younger years wondering how their children are doing in core subjects like math and language arts. It's also a very quick way to learn what is taught in different grades in Alberta.

**Learn Alberta** ([www.learnalberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.ca)): A site with many, many Alberta-aligned resources. Again, very helpful for high-school-for-credit students and parents designing their programs (look under T4T courses). Also useful for parents of younger students looking for resources and ideas for all subject areas.

**What in the World?:** A PDF booklet of current events and issues of relevance for Canadian kids, published 8 times per year. Comes in two versions: level 1 is recommended for grades 5 and up, and level 2 for grades 8 and up. We recommend you print the PDF as a given issue's link only remains active on the website for a few months.

**To access, go to their subscriber page:** <http://www.lesplan.com/en/subscribers>

From time to time Willow may change passwords, so if you have any trouble logging on please let your HEM know. Also, if you have suggestions for other websites your family has found helpful and you believe would benefit many of our families, please pass them along! :)

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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)

Painting by Otis Lee McLellan

This painting is a compilation of an image I found on the internet (inset bubble) and the other half comes from my own ideas. It's called "The hands of the creator". The painting is done with water colours, pencil crayons and markers.



## HIGH SCHOOL CORNER

Welcome back to all our high school students! By now those of you working for credits should have been contacted by your Home Education Manager to arrange your fall visit. If you are wanting to do self-directed courses please let your Home Education Manager know which courses you will be doing this year, and she or he will send you the course outlines, which guide you in creating your proposal. Please submit a proposal for each course before beginning a course, as well as an overall program plan for the year by September 30th. For those of you wanting to take ADLC or other external courses, such as from CBE-Learn, please contact your Home Education Manager. A little extra time and effort at this planning stage will set students up for a successful year.

We strongly recommend our high school students sign up with MyPass, which allows you to view your transcript, called your Detailed Academic Report (DAR). To do this go to <http://mypass.alberta.ca>. You will be sent instructions via email, and a password via snail mail. When your password arrives in the mail, log into the site right away. The password expires in 3 weeks, so if you forget about it you will have to go through the whole process again.



## YOUR HOME EDUCATION MANAGERS WERE INSPIRED!



On Saturday, September 9, we attended the 2nd annual Inspired Secular Homeschool Conference, held at Fort Calgary--and what a fantastic time it was! A vendor hall filled with offerings from art, science & engineering, athletics, health, toys, books, and games; inspiring talks (the robotics talk was SUPERB); a delicious lunch; and an opportunity to network with hundreds of homeschoolers and meet other home education managers. Hope to see you at Inspired 2018!