

# The Willow Grove

December 2017  
Volume 2, Edition 4



*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

First of all I would like to welcome several new families to the Willow Home Ed family. For a variety of reasons they have decided to join us in December and we are happy to have them.

I want to thank all of our families that put such effort in preparing their Resource Claims with care, which in turn helped us to process them more quickly. Our team worked hard to get them completed and in the mail in time for Christmas. The next resource claim deadline is May 23, 2018.

As this holiday season approaches my thoughts turn to the many wonderful memories that I have experienced throughout my life at this time of year. This holiday season is filled with lights and decorations, the sound of carolers, and decorated trees with presents beneath. Activities like tobogganing, skating and skiing. The smell of baking and fancy dinners further enhances the season's celebrations. We are very blessed to live in such a country as Canada, a country that offers prosperity, hope and peace. May we all be grateful for what we have as we gather and celebrate with those we love. I wish you all a Happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year!

Joe Smith  
Principal Willow Home Ed

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



## Upcoming dates

**Dec 22, 2017** Last day of classes at Third Academy

**Jan 7, 2017** High school course submission deadline

**Jan 8, 2018** Third Academy reopens

## ADLC dates

**Dec. 22, 2017-Jan. 1, 2018:** campuses closed, teachers and staff unavailable.

**Jan. 2—Jan. 7, 2018:** campuses open as usual, teachers unavailable.

**Jan. 8, 2018 on:** campuses and teachers available as usual.



## 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.



Greceylou  
Devera and her  
paintings

## THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

These days libraries are more than just books and have many excellent resources; from courses (online and in person) to movie streaming, e-books, music, magazines and more. Take a look at your public library's website to see what they offer. I noticed that the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) even has [Oneplay: Downloadable games](#) to play for free!

This month we will take a look at the Calgary Public Library's course offerings; stay tuned for profiles of their other resources and for resources available in other libraries across Alberta. To access courses at the CPL, go to <https://calgarylibrary.ca> and look under the e-library tab for online courses and the programs tab for in person classes. The new program guide is here: <https://events.calgarypubliclibrary.com/Media/Registration/Library-Connect-Jan-Feb-2018.pdf> and below is a summary of a few of the online learning materials available.

If you live outside of Calgary or one of the other major centres, there several ways in which you, too, can access the Library's resources. Please review the options here for CPL <https://calgarylibrary.ca/faqs/i-dont-live-in-calgary-can-i-get-a-library-card/> to see which one makes the most sense for you. We will look into other ways to borrow from Alberta libraries outside of major centres in future Newsletters.

**Brainfuse FREE HelpNow** - ONLINE TUTORING. Get expert online help with your homework from 2 pm to 11 pm. daily! Chat live with a tutor and get customized assistance. Aligned with Alberta curriculum for students grade 2-12. Also available at EPL.

**Lynda.com** - Access thousands of expert-led short-format online video courses on business skills, web design, photography, home and office software, graphic design, media and much more. Also available at EPL.

**Gale** - Free, interactive, instructor-led, online courses. Calgary Public Library card holders are entitled to take two courses per calendar year (January - December). Courses run for six weeks and new sessions begin every month. Also available at EPL and Lethbridge Public Library.

**Learning Express** - Online courses and practice tests for Elementary School (grade 4), Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8), High School and beyond. Courses such as Biology Success in 20 Minutes a Day, spelling, vocabulary and math practice. It looks pretty traditional but thorough. Also available at EPL.

**Muzzy** - Animated language learning courses for children in 7 languages plus English. Also available at EPL.

**Rosetta Stone Library Solution** - Improve your English or learn a language online courses. Choose from 30 languages: for example, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), English, French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Persian (Farsi), Russian, Spanish , and more.

**Mango Languages** - Language learning courses for 72 languages, plus English language courses in 21 languages. Also available at Red Deer Public Library and Lethbridge Public Library

**SOLARO** - Online access to the same Alberta-specific curriculum information found in The Key. Course lessons, reviews and practice tests for grades 3 through 12. Also available at EPL and Lethbridge Public Library.

## ICE ORNAMENTS CRAFT

(Photo and idea from [www.redtedart.com](http://www.redtedart.com))

1. Choose dishes for the shape of your ornament (plastic lids work well).
2. Fill the dishes with water.
3. Add a piece of string - make sure it is properly submerged and nice and long.
4. Place items such as leaves, berries, twigs and small shells in the water.
5. Place outside overnight to freeze.
6. Hang and enjoy!



From the Field (by Cindy)

Jump Math Teacher's Guides! They are awesome. You will need to create a username and password.

[https://jumpmath.org/jump/en/teachers\\_guides\\_intro](https://jumpmath.org/jump/en/teachers_guides_intro)

From the Vault (by Cindy)

Readers' Theatre is one of my favourite ways to read with children. In my home, we usually used our beanie babies and assigned them all characters; each of us reading a variety of roles while the beanies "acted" them out. The Evan Moor company has some excellent books <http://www.evan-moor.com> and in fact if you Google Readers' Theatre you will get many free scripts as well.

## GLASS CANDY RECIPE

(Taken from Grain-free Gourmet by Jodi Bager and Jenny Lass)

Ingredients:

1 cup (250 ml) honey

½ tsp (2 ml) pure vanilla extract

¼ cup (50 ml) cashew, almond or hazelnut butter

1 tbsp. (15 ml) unsalted butter

You will need a candy thermometer

1. Boil the honey on low to medium low heat in a medium-sized pot for 18-20 minutes, or until it reaches 300 F (150 C) on a candy thermometer. The honey should boil as vigorously as it can without boiling over. Stir the honey as it boils.
2. Turn off the stove, but keep the pot on the burner. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well.
3. Spread the honey mixture thinly onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. Cover with parchment paper and refrigerate for at least 20 minutes, until completely hardened.
5. Separate the candy from the parchment paper and break into pieces.
6. Store the candy in the refrigerator to keep it crisp.

# SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

During visits we find a lot of students interested in science experiments. We thought of including one special experiment here, but there are so many fantastic, fun, science experiments, that we decided to provide you with some links instead and let you choose.

1. Steve Spangler Science - <https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/> His list includes food science (understand the science behind the glass candy recipe!), states of matter, light and sound and others. Looks like he has a monthly science club delivery package for those who were looking for that option.
2. Little Bins for Little Hands - <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/> This site has Lego activities, slime recipes and more.
3. Lemonlime Adventures - <http://lemonlimeadventures.com/top-10-must-try-christmas-science-experiments-for-kids/> Lots of activities. We liked the look of the dissolving candy cane experiment and the Science behind Cranberries looks interesting.



Homeschool student enjoying “Oobleck”