

# The Willow Grove

September 2018



*Willow Home Ed*

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

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

## Principal's Message

We at Willow Home Ed are all very excited about the 2018 – 2019 school year. We enjoy helping families reach their educational goals, whatever they may be. Willow Home Ed continues to grow and the feedback we are receiving is that our Home Education Managers (HEM) are the best at serving our families' needs. I want to thank our team for all their hard work!

We are happy to welcome three new Home Education Managers to the Willow team this year. Carmen Beck, Nicole Schumm and Karen Whitehead. Carmen and Nicole will join our team in serving families in the Calgary area, while Karen Whitehead will take care our families in the Edmonton area. We are looking forward to benefitting from their home education experience and training. Welcome aboard!

I want to remind all our families that we are offering a Banff/Jasper National Park fieldtrip. This trip is for Junior and Senior High School students. We would love for you to join us on this fun filled experience on September 22-24. Please check out the information contained in this newsletter. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

September 30 is the deadline to register your student at Willow Home Ed, so if you haven't already, please download the forms here

<http://willowhome.ca/resources/forms/>

and email to us at [josmith@willowhome.ca](mailto:josmith@willowhome.ca)

Joe Smith

Principal Willow Home Ed

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

## UPCOMING DATES

### EDMONTON-AREA

**Sept 6 7-8:30pm** Open House Highlands Library Program Room

**Sept 21 TBA** Welcome Meet and Greet

**Oct 3 11-3pm** Citadel Matinee: The Once

### CALGARY -AREA

**Sept 11 7-8:30 pm** Open House at Third Academy

**Sept 19 11:00am-1:00pm** Big Hill Springs field trip (see page 2)

### OTHER UPCOMING DATES

**Sept 22-24** Banff/Jasper National Park fieldtrip (see page 4)

**Sept 30** Deadline to register as homeschool student

### FIND US ONLINE!

Visit our website for information on registering with Willow Home Ed, resource claims, program plans, high school information, upcoming activities, and past newsletters. <http://willowhome.ca>

**Friends of Willow Home Ed Facebook group** A place for families and friends of Willow Home Ed to get to know each other, plan activities, and share their experiences. Our home education managers are active on the Facebook group providing information on activities and events of interest, ideas for resources, and answering any questions you may have. Please join in the conversation at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsOfWillowHomeEd/>

**Willow Home Ed Facebook page** 'Like' our page to receive general announcements from Willow Home Ed.

<https://www.facebook.com/WillowHomeEd/>

## EDMONTON NEWS

Welcome Edmonton families and students! This is going to be a great year! We have an open house coming up on Thursday September 6th at the Highlands Library from 7:00-8:30pm. Our HEM Karen Whitehead has booked tickets to three Citadel productions (The Once, Matilda, and the Tempest) and one with Alberta Opera - Pinocchio a musical. Please email Karen at [kwhitehead@willowhome.ca](mailto:kwhitehead@willowhome.ca) or check the Friends of Willow Home Ed Facebook group if you are interested in tickets. Karen has also planned a welcome day on September 21, to meet, plan some activities for the year, and have some fun. Keep your eyes on the Facebook group for more details to come. While it's not a Willow event, we hope to see you all at the Not-back-to-school picnic at Kinsman Playground on September 4!

## OUT AND ABOUT IN EDMONTON

**Sept 4 11-3** Not-back-to-school picnic (HLSA) Kinsmen Playground (Look for Karen with the long red hair in a single side braid.)

**Ongoing** Homeschool Days Telus World of Science

<http://telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca/educators/school-programs/home-school-programs>

## OUT AND ABOUT IN CALGARY

**Sept 5 11am-2pm** Not-back-to-school picnic at Pearce Estate Park (Willow will be there!)

**Sept 12-13** Fort Calgary Homeschool Days. Check the website here

<http://www.fortcalgary.com/educate/>

**Sept 14-15** Inspired Homeschool Conference

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/inspired-homeschooling-conference-2018-tickets-38712090906> (Willow will be there!)

**Sept 20** Heritage Park Homeschool Day <https://www.heritagepark.ca/education-programs/school-programs/specialty-programs/home-schooler-day-2.html>

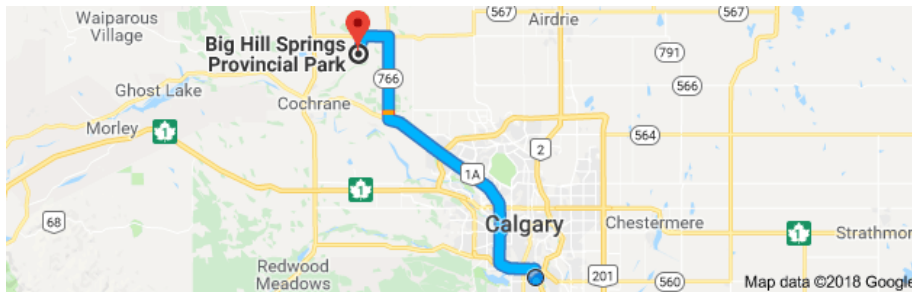
Registration deadline: Sept 13

# CALGARY FIELD TRIP

**Big Hill Springs Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:00-1:00**

We welcome all home education families and friends to join us at Big Hill Springs Wednesday, September 19 from 11:00 - 1:00. For those of you unfamiliar with Big Hill Springs Provincial Park, it is located 10 km north of Cochrane, just off highway 567. There is a small picnic area with a creek to play in and a hiking trail along a series of small waterfalls. It's a nice hike for kids. We've even seen it done it with a stroller! The water is only ankle to knee deep and perfect for splashing around in.

You can find Google Map directions by clicking here:



Or enter, Range Rd 34A, Rocky View No. 44, AB, into your GPS.

Hope to see you there!



# BANFF/JASPER NATIONAL PARK FIELDTRIP

## SEPTEMBER 22-24 2018

Join us this September on a three day (two night) field trip to the Banff and Jasper National Parks. We are offering this excursion to Willow Home Education students registered in Grades 7 through 12 for the 2018-2019 School Year. Students will be supervised by Willow Home Ed Principal Joe Smith and our Home Education Managers. Our itinerary includes hiking, campfires, a tour of the Athabasca Glacier on a world famous Ice Explorer, swimming at the Banff Upper Hot Springs, an opportunity to make friends with other home educated students their own age, and much more.



**What is included:** Transportation, park fees, accommodation for 2 nights at Hosteling International's Mosquito Creek Wilderness Hostel (including bedding), all food (with the exception of the first day's lunch and Monday's lunch in Banff), hikes and other activities, Columbia Icefield Glacier Adventure Tour, and admission to the Banff's Upper Hot Springs Pool.

**Cost:** Three Day Trip: \$175. The total cost of the trip can be deducted from your 2018-2019 resource claim.

**Transportation:** Students will be transported by school bus. We will pick up students at 2 locations in Calgary (SW & NW) and Cochrane.

**Credits:** Time spent on hikes and other physical activities can be applied to Physical Education credits.

**Email:** [josmith@willowhome.ca](mailto:josmith@willowhome.ca) today for an information and registration package.

# GROUP TICKETS IN CALGARY - STORYBOOK THEATRE AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE

We have organized group tickets to several shows for the 2018-19 year. For tickets, please contact our HEM Risa Kawchuk at [rkawchuk@willowhome.ca](mailto:rkawchuk@willowhome.ca). Your student's ticket(s) are eligible for reimbursement from your homeschool funding. Receipts will be provided. Here are the shows and available tickets at this time:

**Wed Oct 24 10am** Storybook Theatre's *Goosebumps - musical*. Rated G, recommended for ages 6+, at Beddington Theatre Arts Centre. 20 tickets available, \$16.80/each.

**Mon Nov 5 10:15am** National Geographic Live's *Social by Nature*. Sold Out.

**Wed Nov 14 10am** Storybook Theatre's *A Boys Own Jedi Handbook - play*. Rated G, recommended for ages 10+ at Vertigo Theatre. 16 tickets available, \$16.80/each.

**Fri Dec 14 10am** Storybook Theatre's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas - musical*. Rated G, recommended for ages 6+ at Vertigo Theatre. 5 tickets available, \$12.60/each. **SOLD OUT**

**Mon Jan 28 10:15am** National Geographic Live's *Search for Life Beyond Earth*. Recommended for grades 3-12 at Arts Commons. 2 tickets available, \$12/each.

**Wed Feb 6 10am** Storybook Theatre's *What if Romeo and Juliet... - acrobatic movement theatre*. Rated G, recommended for ages 8+ at Beddington Theatre Arts Centre. 13 tickets available, \$16.80/each.

**Fri Mar 1 10am** Storybook Theatre's *The Giver - play*. Rated G, recommended for ages 10+ at Beddington Theatre Arts Centre. 10 tickets available, \$16.80/each.

**Tues May 7 10:15am** National Geographic Live's *Adventures among Orangutans*. Recommended for grades 3-12 at Arts Commons. 1 ticket available, \$12.

## 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.



The Beck family enjoying canoeing and camping at Elkwood this summer. Elkwood Campground is located in Peter Loughheed Provincial Park. Many activities are available such as interpretive programs, hiking trails, paved bike paths, and it is close to the Kananaskis Lakes.

## MEET OUR NEW HOME EDUCATION MANAGERS



### **Carmen Beck**

Carmen is thrilled to be joining the Willow Home Ed team. She is a homeschooling parent to three kids and a former high school social studies teacher with experience teaching many students with diverse learning needs, including one of her own children who is twice exceptional. She has a passion for outdoor and experiential learning, so stay tuned for workshops that she will be organizing over the course of the year. She is also parenting a competitive gymnast, so she understands the flexibility (haha, no pun intended!) that home educating families need and love, for many reasons. She also thoroughly enjoys supporting home educating families and seeing students grow. She looks forward to meeting you!



### **Karen Whitehead**

Karen is excited to join the team this year. She has been homeschooling her three children for 7 years using the world as her number one curriculum resource. She loves the flexibility and time that homeschooling offers so she can play with her kids and delve into whatever passion comes their way. You might find her and her kids at the science centre, library, museum, outside playing in the river valley, baking cupcakes, playing Minecraft, or crafting out for the afternoon in a local tea shop. She loves sharing her time and passions with people and can't wait to meet you!



### **Nicole Schumm**

Nicole is thrilled to join Willow's team of Home Education Managers this school year. Homeschooling has been a large and positive part of Nicole's family's life for the past eleven years, and she is thankful for the time it has provided her family to each explore their own areas of interest, to cultivate an excitement for learning new things, and to simply enjoy each other and grow up together. She is looking forward to working with Willow's families - learning from them as well as sharing her own teaching and homeschooling experiences in return. Nicole's educational interests lie mainly in the sciences (health, biology and physics) and math; her hobbies include reading, gardening, and playing or coaching various sports.

## ONLINE RESOURCES



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 our families, please pass them along!

## OPEN HOUSES



**Please share with your friends and family who are considering homeschooling.**

Curious about parent-directed (“traditional”) home education? Want to learn more about what we offer at Willow Home Ed, and meet our Home Education Managers?

Come to our **Open House and Home Education Information Night**

When?           **Edmonton** Sept 6, 7pm-8:30pm  
                      **Calgary** Sept 11, 2018 7pm-8:30pm

Where?          **Edmonton** Highlands Library Program Room, 6710 118 Avenue  
                      **Calgary** Third Academy, 3, 510 – 77 Ave SE

We will be discussing our program, which is 100% parent-directed home education, and how we support you and your child’s learning. We provide two visits per year in your home, knowledgeable home education managers who are experienced homeschooling parents themselves, monthly newsletters, flexible options at high school including self/parent-directed for credit, a graduation ceremony for grade 12 students, and more.

Topics to be covered include:

- How to Get Started
- Home education regulations
- Program plans
- Resources
- Connecting with the homeschool community
- Classes, workshops, field trips and other learning opportunities for homeschoolers
- High School options
- Resource claims

Everyone welcome, so please invite your homeschooling friends and family and those thinking about it.

NB: While this session is aimed at parents, students are also welcome. Please ensure that small children are supervised.