

The Willow Grove

February 2019



Willow Home Ed

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

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

Principal's Message

I wish to encourage all of our parents to participate in the Willow Home Ed survey. We are conducting a survey for feedback on your thoughts about how we are doing in assisting you in home schooling your children. We are also seeking your input on providing additional educational services. Your feedback is important in evaluating our present services, and in exploring your interest in enhanced educational services.

As parents who educate their children at home, sometimes we may question whether our children are learning enough, we question ourselves if we are doing it right, and sometimes we are afraid that we don't know enough. It is not uncommon for me to receive emails and phone calls from new parents who share similar worries. Some parents feel that they may not be qualified to teach their children properly or they are afraid of falling short. Many even want to quit before they even get started.

I recently received a call from a parent who just started this year. At first she was filled with uncertainty and fear. After five months she reported that she can't believe how much her children are learning, and how happy they are. She says her relationship with her children has never been better. She would encourage all those that hesitate because of doubt and fear to just trust in yourself, and get started. It is a learning experience for both the parents and the children as they learn and grow together.

I wish you all success in your educational journey.

"Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear" George Addair

Joe Smith

Principal Willow Home Ed

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



UPCOMING DATES

EDMONTON-AREA

Feb 11 9:30-2pm Silver Skate Festival

Feb 15 1:30-3:30pm Swimming at Clareview Recreation Centre

Feb 22 3-9pm Downhill Skiing Snow Valley

CALGARY-AREA

Feb 6 10am Storybook Theatre's *What if Romeo and Juliet*

Feb 27 12-2pm Winter foraging at Kaykima Wilderness Camp

HIGH SCHOOL

Mar 28 Registration for diploma exams opens on My Pass

Apr 11 Deadline to register for diploma exams



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.

EDMONTON “FIELD TRIP FRIDAYS”

Feb 11 9:30-2pm Our Home Education Manager, Karen has booked the Silver Skate Festival School Program, reserving 30 tickets at \$15/ticket. Please contact her ASAP, at kwhitehead@willowhome.ca for more information.

Feb 15 1:30-3:30pm Swimming at Clareview Recreation Centre, 3804 139 Ave NW

Feb 22 3-9pm Downhill Skiing Snow Valley only \$10 with food bank donation! Let's ski together! (Rentals only \$15) 13204 Rainbow Valley Rd NW

March 22 Save the date for a field trip to the Telephone and Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museums

OUT AND ABOUT IN EDMONTON

February 11 Homeschool day Telus World of Science

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

FIELD TRIPS IN CALGARY

KAYKIMA WILDERNESS CAMPS IN BRAGG CREEK

There are still spaces available in our winter K-Gr 5 Kaykima workshops. These programs are all at Bragg Creek Provincial Park. Please email Carmen Beck at cbeck@willowhome.ca if you would like to participate.

February 27 12-2pm we will be learning about winter foraging.

March 20 12-2pm we will be working on notches and outdoor winter cooking.

If there is enough interest from our older students, grades 6-12, Kaykima Wilderness Camps will add a second session of these programs. Please let Carmen know if your older student is interested as we need a commitment from at least 8 students to offer an additional time slot.

All workshops are \$15 per student, payable directly to Kaykima Wilderness Camps.

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. Your student's ticket(s) are eligible for reimbursement from your homeschool funding. Receipts will be provided. Following are the shows and available tickets at this time. **NEW: Risa will take “waitlist” names for sold out shows, as we sometimes have people unable to attend shows they bought tickets for.**

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. 7 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. 4 tickets available, \$16.80/each.

Tues Apr 23 10am Storybook Theatre's *Return to Treasure Island – musical*. Rated G, recommended for ages 6+ at Beddington Arts Centre. **Sold Out**.

Tues May 7 10:15am National Geographic Live's *Adventures among Orangutans*. Recommended for grades 3-12 at Arts Commons. **Sold Out**.

We are still looking for student/family reviews for National Geographic's Social by Nature, A Boy's Own Jedi Handbook, and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. To have your review of a show included in a future newsletter, send to rkawchuk@willowhome.ca.

CALLING ALL MATHLETES!

Math competitions can offer a highly engaging supplement to your math programs. Typically, students can download past competitions for practice; Kangaroo also offers online training. Competitions must be written on a specified day with a non-partial supervisor. Some (like Kangaroo) allow individual registrations and specify locations where parents can take their children on weekends. Others (like Mathematica and the Calgary Elementary Math Competition) require schools to register as a team and supply an impartial supervisor for a specified date and time. If there were sufficient interest, Willow might be able to offer a space and supervisor, thereby allowing home schooled children to participate.

You can get a better sense of what the competitions are like by visiting the following links, which also have sample tests:

Kangaroo (Grades 1-12): <https://kangaroo.math.ca/> (you can register for this one on your own; no group required)

Mathematica (Grades 3-9): <http://mathematica.ca/eng/registrations.htm>

Calgary Elementary Math Competition (Grades 4-6; younger students allowed to enter):
<http://blogs.mtroyal.ca/cesmc/>

University of Calgary Junior Math Competition (aimed at Grade 9, but open to lower grades):
https://math.ucalgary.ca/community_outreach/junior_math_contest

The University of Calgary also maintains a larger list of potential competitions:
https://math.ucalgary.ca/community_outreach/other_contests

If you might be interested in a Willow-based group to write one or more of these competitions, please email our Willow Home Ed parent, Martina Metz at martina17@shaw.ca and let her know what grade level you're interested in. If there's enough interest, perhaps we can organize something for our students

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY:

AN AMAZING HOMESCHOOL RESOURCE



As almost all homeschoolers know, the public library is probably one of the best resources they can access, offering novels, picture books, early readers, magazines, DVD's, cd's, audio and non-fiction sources. But there are five extra resources most libraries offer that not everyone knows about:

1. **Space** – Most libraries offer meeting spaces for rent for reasonable fees (\$15/half day in Edmonton's EPL) or for free (Calgary's CPL offers free rentals for 4 to 80+ people). This space is a great place to use for homeschool events like a game club, or as a regular meeting place for a homeschool co-op. Check your library for accessibility.
2. **On-Line Courses** – Libraries offer on-line courses such as guitar, drawing, business, early Canadiana, and information about animals like in PebbleGo.

Second language classes are often available:

- Rosetta Stone
- Muzzy
- Pronunciator

Great study resources from your library may include:

- Solaro – study guides, similar to The Key, covering grades 3 to 12 subjects
- Brainfuse – free on-line tutoring for grades 2-12
- Kanopy – online video/documentary streaming including the Great Courses, with possible topics ranging from robotics to Ancient History
- Gale Courses – offers a bit of almost every topic from accounting to computers
- Lynda.com – offers classes in topics like web design, Python and digital animation

Look under the E-Library for options offered by your library for more information.

3. **Hold System** – The hold system simplifies homeschooling. You can place a hold on an item months in advance, and then pause that hold so the material becomes available right when you need it, such as placing the ELA 10-1 Key on hold so it comes in right when you will need a study guide, or books about a seasonal holiday that would normally be hard to find when that holiday rolls around.
4. **TAL** – The Alberta Library on-line is an interlibrary loan system that includes almost all libraries in Alberta. Your library doesn't have a book you want? Perhaps Grande Prairie or Lethbridge does! You do not need to let your library's book selection limit what you want to learn about.
<http://thealbertalibrary.ca/services/tal-online>
5. **Programs** – Remember to look into the free programs and workshops that your library may offer like LEGO contests, book clubs, Mad Science classes, resume and career counseling, and art projects.



TOMATOES FROM OUTER SPACE

While this may sound like a science fiction movie, the Tomatosphere Project is actually a free educational fun project for the entire family. Educators who register for the program receive two sets of tomato seeds. One package contains seeds sent into space on the International Space Station or treated in space-simulated conditions (space-simulated seeds undergo treatments that simulate the extreme conditions of interplanetary travel). The other contains "control" seeds, which are untreated. Students plant the seeds and conduct experiments to explore the effects of the space environment on the germination of tomatoes. Tomatosphere™ is a free program and seeds typically arrive in classrooms between February and April each year. Through Tomatosphere™, students learn how to conduct a scientific experiment and compare germination rates of the two groups of seeds. Classrooms discover which seeds are the "space" seeds and which are the control group after they submit their results online.

To read more about the project and to register, go to <http://tomatosphere.letstalkscience.ca>

It is open to all homeschoolers