

The Willow Grove

March 2019



Willow Home Ed

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Principal's Message

The winter season decided to get serious and blasted us with a terribly cold month of February. As I drove home each day, I witnessed people stopping their cars and assisting those that slid off the road. I saw others helping to get a car started in the cold, or shoveling a neighbour's side walk. Cold winter weather can have a positive effect on our communities as people rally together to overcome the difficulty that cold and heavy snowfall can bring.

I like to think that our home schooling community works the same way. Sometimes doing it all by ourselves can be really tough. Remember that we have much strength as a team and sometimes we need only to reach out by asking for help. Remember there is our Friends of Willow Facebook page that you can use as a way to help yourselves and others overcome some of the challenges that we face each day. Reach out and help someone, because together we are very strong.

I want to thank all those families that responded to our Willow Home Ed survey. The information collected informs as we our recently submitted application for Willow Academy.

Joe Smith

Principal Willow Home Ed

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



UPCOMING DATES

EDMONTON-AREA

March 6 - Matilda at the Citadel Theatre Edmonton

Mar 8 1-4pm Swimming at Millennium Place

Mar 22 12:30pm - 4:30pm Telephone Historical Museum & The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum

CALGARY-AREA

Mar 5 KAYKIMA makeup session on winter shelters

HIGH SCHOOL

Apr 12 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”

March 6 - Matilda at the Citadel Theatre Edmonton

Mar 8 1-4pm Swimming, Millennium Place - Sherwood Park

Mar 22 12:30pm - 4:30pm Telephone Historical Museum and The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum

OUT AND ABOUT IN EDMONTON

Mar 18 Telus World of Science Home School day

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

Check out SHINE and HLSA for more field trips and events:

SHINE <https://www.facebook.com/Society-for-the-Homeschool-Network-of-Edmonton-28338092310/>

HLSA <http://www.hlsa.ca/>

FIELD TRIPS IN CALGARY

KAYKIMA

Willow Home Ed has been enjoying monthly Kaykima Outdoor Camps workshops at Bragg Creek Provincial Park. These workshops are an excellent opportunity for our students in grades K-5 to learn outdoor skills, meet other homeschoolers and spent quality time outside in all seasons. We have more sessions scheduled for the spring! All upcoming sessions for the remainder of the year will be on Tuesdays at Bragg Creek Provincial Park from 12-2pm. They are \$15 per participant, payable directly to Rob on the day of the workshop by cash or EMT. Our upcoming Kaykima Outdoor Camps workshops are as follows:

Tues Mar 5: makeup session on winter shelters

Tues Apr 16: Topic TBD

Tues May 14: Topic TBD

Tues June 11: Topic TBD

Please email cbeck@willowhome.ca with any questions or to register.

STORYBOOK THEATRE AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE

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.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

- ✚ The deadline to register for June Diploma Exams is **April 12**. Please register using MyPass.
- ✚ Willow Graduation Photos will be taken by Lifetouch on **April 23** in their Calgary studios. Location: 3628 Burnsland Rd SE. Please Book appointment: call **403-255-5440** or online at lifetouch.ca/southernalberta
- ✚ HEM's need to get all their high school (for credit) visits completed by **May 15**, so please plan accordingly.
- ✚ **May 30** is the deadline for handing in any coursework to be declared for credits this school year.
- ✚ Third Academy / Willow Home Ed Graduation Ceremony will take place in June. We are confirming the date with Deerfoot Inn. For further information and to purchase tickets for this joint Third Academy / Willow Home Ed event, contact Joe at josmith@willowhome.ca. Ann-Marie, Risa and Joe attended the event last year and thought it was lovely: photos of the students' educational journeys were shared over dinner in a silent slideshow, and each graduating student was talked about by teachers, parents, or relatives in touching, amusing, and inspiring anecdotes. Note that this event is open to all grade 12 students, diploma route or non-diploma route.



There once was a cold, snowy day
And two children who wanted to play.
"Outside's not an option,
The weather's too rotten!"
So inside writing poetry they stay.

Playing around with writing limericks can be fun! Choose some words and challenge the whole family to write limericks including some or all of them. See what great variations everyone can come up with! For example, try writing winter-themed limericks including some or all of the words *snow*, *frost*, *icicle*, *mittens* and *flake*. Many examples of funny limericks can be found here: <http://pun.me/pages/funny-limericks.php>. If you would like to have your limerick included in a future newsletter, please submit to Cindy at cschnee@willowhome.ca.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Daniel Zbylut likes tying flies. In the photos below he is focused on tying a fly. The yellow fly is a salfly and the bottom one is a troutfly.



Daniel Zbylut, 14-year-old from Calgary, represented Canada at the Atlantic Salmon Fly International Expo in Miramichi, New Brunswick, last June. He is one of the few youths in the world to tie these historical and intricate flies. The rich and deep history surrounding these flies captivates Daniel and compels him to tie them. In the recent weeks Daniel worked on a fly for the Calgary Water Conservation Auction for Trout Unlimited Canada, happening at the end of March.

Daniel's passion started when he was 9 when he visited a fly shop. He was intrigued by the colorful feathers and materials he saw. This sparked his interest, and he taught himself how to tie basic flies on a vise he made by himself from pliers. Since then he has tied thousands of trout flies for one of the fly shops in Calgary. His article about fishing for bull trout and instructions for a fly he designed were featured in Fly Fusion Magazine. Daniel loves to share his skills and knowledge and he sometimes teaches fly tying at Calgary Hook and Hackle Club.

More of his work can be found on his Facebook profile: Daniel Zbylut.



A Day in the Life... (submitted by HEM Carmen Beck)

The morning started with Mr. Otter, age 3, waking up around 7am as usual. Mr. Monkey, age 6, woke shortly after, and the three of us read some stories while I had my morning coffee. The boys had their first round of breakfast then got right to work on building a rocket launch station and rocket out of Magnatiles. They also set up a veterinarian station where they took care of their stuffed dogs. My oldest, Miss Gymmie, age 8, woke at 9am this morning. We all had breakfast round-two together, then headed upstairs to get dressed, brush teeth, and tidy.

By the time we got around to school work it was 10:30am. While Mr. Otter worked on a dry erase tracing book, the older kids did some math. A question from Miss Gymmie prompted me to pull out the base ten blocks, which attracted the attention of her brothers. We all worked together with the base ten blocks before they finished their book work. Miss Gymmie then went to read a couple of chapters of "Holes," while I worked with Mr. Monkey on his weather unit. I decided to pull out some human body X-ray pictures and two human body puzzles we hadn't used in a while so I could get some dinner prep done. The older two kids decided to trace the X-rays while Mr. Otter did some puzzles. I also managed to get our lunch heated up (didn't we just eat?!).

After lunch we had a quick errand to do, and some school activities to finish. Miss Gymmie then went upstairs to pack for her weekend trip to a gymnastics meet I worked with the boys on a tricky 200 piece human body puzzle that we had pulled out earlier. By the time the last piece of the puzzle was going in, the doorbell rang. It was time for Mr. Monkey's drum lesson! Mr. Otter requested an episode of Paw Patrol, and Miss Gymmie went to listen to a podcast. This gave me a little bit of time to assemble our dinner and set it to warm in the oven. I also prepared an afternoon snack. Before Mr. Monkey's drum lesson was even over, the doorbell rang again with some friends arriving for a short visit. Our guests are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a group that does dramatizations of life in the Middle Ages. They taught the kids all about the SCA, costumes, and of course sword fighting.

After our guests left, we had time for a really quick tidy and gathering of gear and snacks for evening activities, then dinner. Miss Gymmie had gymnastics practice, Mr. Monkey had freestyle skiing, and Dad was taking Mr. Otter skating. While the kids, and Dad, were all busy with activities, I had some time to do some work.

For our family, homeschooling doesn't always look the same from day to day or week to week. Our weekly schedule can vary based on get-togethers, visitors, sports, weather and our energy levels. Today was a full day with a number of distractions but it still felt like a productive day of fun and learning.

One of our strengths at Willow Home Ed is that our families' journeys are so diverse and personalized. We would love to read more about a day in your homeschool! To share in our next newsletter, please email cschnee@willowhome.ca.