

The Willow Grove

November 2019



Willow Home Ed

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Principal's Message

When I speak with my Home Ed Managers about their students, I am frequently impressed with their students' desire to learn, their academic achievements, and the confident well-rounded members of society that they are becoming. Time after time I receive feedback from service providers who speak highly of our students, and how well our students manage themselves in public. I believe the credit for our students' successes lies mainly with their primary educators – their parents – whose tireless efforts, and countless hours of assistance that they readily give to their students, really does pay off.

Recently I received a letter from Alberta Education notifying me of another student success story: one of Willow Home Ed's students has been selected for membership on the 2019-2020 Education Minister's Youth Council. This forty-member council will share diverse student perspectives with the Minister of Education and provide valuable input on education topics. Collectively the council will contribute a broad and diverse range of life experiences, knowledge and skills.

I would like to congratulate Jack Boylan on being selected for the Education Minister's Council. You have done us all proud and we are confident that you will represent us well.

Joe Smith
Associate Principal
Willow Home Ed

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

UPCOMING DATES

Nov 1 Deadline to register for grade 12 January diploma exams

Nov 30 Resource claim deadline

EDMONTON & AREA

Nov 29 Swimming at Millennium Place

CALGARY & AREA

Nov 6 Curious George at Storybook Theatre

Nov 15 Picture retakes at Third Academy

Nov 26, 27 & 28 Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical at Storybook Theatre

FIND US ONLINE!

Visit our website for information on registering with Willow Home Ed, resource claims, program plans, high school information, 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/>

MEET OUR NEW HOME EDUCATION MANAGERS

Willow Home Ed continues to grow and we are thrilled to welcome two new Home Education Managers to our team! Welcome to Carlie and Annette. We are excited to have your knowledge and enthusiasm added to the Willow family.



Annette is a parent of two boys who are in their third year of homeschooling. Annette is an educator who is passionate about fostering confident children who embrace their qualities. Annette loves the playfulness of homeschooling. Every year, her family selects a learning theme and tries it on. This year is "Everything Science Experiment". With Dad, the family curiously explores the life happenings around them, taking advantage of living in the country as well as being adventurous travelers; the province is their playground. Annette is looking forward to supporting other homeschooling families in their own learning journeys.

Carlie is excited to be part of the Willow team this year. A homeschooling mom of 3, she loves the way that home education has empowered her to bring learning to life for all her children with their diverse learning needs, including Learning Disabilities, Sensory Processing Differences, ADHD, and Giftedness. In the process, Carlie and her husband are getting a fantastic education too. Carlie's educational interests are wide and varied, but especially focused around language learning, the fine arts, outdoor education, and empowering learners with language-based learning disabilities. Carlie loves adventure and you will often find her taking homeschooling into the mountains, on the road, travelling across this amazing country, and off to foreign lands, with her yoga mat in tow. When not on her mat, you can often find Carlie on her bike, in the pool, on the ski hill, at the theatre, or soaking up nature in the backcountry.



MINECRAFT SERVER FOR WILLOW FAMILIES



Minecraft Players – Willow student, Tommy, has created a Minecraft server (Java edition) for Friends of Willow! Tommy is inviting Willow families to play Minecraft in a safe environment. Please pm HEM Karen Whitehead Kuntz at the Friends of Willow Facebook page or email her at kwhitehead@willowhome.ca if you are interested in learning more.

RESOURCE CLAIMS



Resource claims can be made with Willow in November and in May. The fall resource claim deadline is at the end of this month, November 30. At that time, you can be reimbursed for up to \$417.70, but Willow families are encouraged to submit their entire claim at that time so they do not need to worry about completing another form in the spring.

Past Willow resource claim form will be found online : <http://willowhome.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Willow-Resource-Claim-2018-2019.pdf> OR see the 2019-2020 resource claim that was attached with this newsletter.

Please complete the resource claim form in PENCIL.

When you submit your original or on-line receipts along with your reimbursement form, please make sure that all receipts are of 8 ½ by 11 size or tape each receipt to a separate sheet of paper.

All receipts should be labelled according to what line of the reimbursement form it was included on, such as “1” for the internet receipt, or E2 for items from a grocery bill that were used in a cooking project (please include which items were used for a recipe and what recipe was made). Consider adding your surname name to your receipts to help prevent any mix ups.

It is strongly recommended that you submit one internet receipt at this time, if it is not a business expense. You can claim half of your internet costs for the year which can be calculated by multiplying one month’s bill by 6. For example, if your internet costs \$100/month, you have an internet claim of \$600; of that amount, you can be reimbursed \$417.70 this fall with the remainder going to your spring refund.

For many of you, adding a few additional receipts (classes, books, supplies, etc.) will take you over your total funding for the year, and then you will not need to submit another claim in spring. Save yourself (and your HEM) some time and if possible, **submit for the full \$835.40/student now**. This also eliminates the risk of losing your receipts before the spring refund.

Include your program plan with your submitted receipts, updating as required. All claimed items must appear on your program plan. We cannot process your resource claim without a program plan. Please submit your updated program plan to your HEM too.

Send your completed claim, your receipts and your program plan to Third Academy, at Bay 3, 510 77 Ave SE, Calgary AB, T2H 1C3, or arrange to give them to your Home Education Manager – which may be more convenient for our Edmonton and new central Alberta HEMs and families.

Cheques will be mailed in late December.



Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some frequently asked questions about resource claims. Alberta Education's rules on resource claims, called Standards, can be found here: <http://willowhome.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Standards-for-Home-Education-Reimbursement.pdf>

FAQ:

How do we provide "original receipts" for online purchases, like amazon or indigo?

- Please print a copy of the receipt to include with your claim.

Can we claim shipping?

- Yes, provided it is between the purchase company and your home. Costs to mail your claim to Willow Home Ed are not eligible. (Shipping costs should be included in the subtotal and total for your item.) Shipping class assignments to ADLC is also eligible.

How do we handle purchases in US dollars?

- Please provide your credit card statement showing the conversion rate and actual cost in Canadian dollars. You can black out all other purchases on your statement of you like.

What if we claim more than \$417.70 in fall?

- Those monies will be "carried over" and paid out automatically on your spring claim.

What are some common items families submit receipts for that CANNOT be reimbursed?

- Team sports, community organizations (Guides, Scouts, Junior Forest Wardens, 4H), pet supplies, warranties, memberships for home educating parents (AHEA, AHEPS, SHINE, CHE), conference fees for home educating parents (Inspired, AHEA), furniture (desks, bookcases or other storage units).

Can I claim receipts from 2018 or further back?

- Receipts from our previous resource claim date (so June 1, 2019 forward) are eligible for reimbursement for the 2019-20 year. If the purchase date was before this, please contact your HEM and/or Joe Smith.

Can we claim items purchased second-hand?

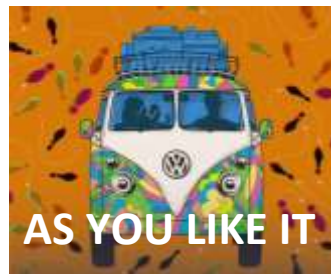
- Yes, with a receipt from the seller. Like all receipts submitted, it needs to include the seller's name, your name, the specific item purchased (e.g. book titles and not just "books"), the date of purchase, and the total cost.



EDMONTON & AREA NEWS

Our Home Education Manager, Karen Whitehead is booking tickets to two Citadel productions (*As You Like It* and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*). Please email Karen at kwhitehead@willowhome.ca or check the Friends of Willow Home Ed Facebook group if you are interested in tickets.

- **Wed, March 4, 11:00am-2:30 pm - *As You Like It*** – Rated 6+ Musical at Citadel Theatre. \$31.50/seat + approximate \$2 order fee per family.
- **Wed, April 29, 11-2:30pm - *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*** - Rated 8+ at Citadel Theatre. \$20/seat + approximate \$2 order fee per family.



OUT AND ABOUT AROUND EDMONTON

Keep your eyes on the Friends of Willow Facebook group for more events.

Fri, Nov 29, 1:30pm – Swimming at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park for our Field Trip Fridays! This event is open to everyone so bring your friends!

Mondays all year, 1:30-3:30pm – HLSA Park Days (non-members welcome)

Every second Tuesday, 1-3pm - Meet up at Ritchie Community Hall – Nov 12 & 26th

Ongoing Homeschool Days Telus World of Science

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

If you are looking for friends to go on field trips and do activities with, don't forget to join Society for Homeschoolers in Edmonton (SHINE) or Homebased Learning Society of Alberta (HLSA). Get in touch with your Home Education Manager if you need contact information for these two groups or if you want information about any of the above.

CALGARY & AREA NEWS

GROUP TICKETS IN CALGARY - STORYBOOK THEATRE AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE

Our HEM, Risa Kawchuk, has organized group tickets to several shows for 2019-20. Please contact her at rkawchuk@willowhome.ca to be put on the waiting list, should tickets come available:

STORYBOOK THEATRE: For show details, please see <https://www.storybooktheatre.org/season43>

- **Nov 6**, 10am *Curious George: The Golden Meatball* - musical. Rated K, recommended for ages 3+, at Beddington Theatre Arts Centre. Tickets \$13/each.
- **Nov 26, 27, 28, & Dec 3, 4, 11, 12** 10am *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. Rated G, recommended for ages 6+, at Beddington Theatre Arts Centre. Tickets \$17/each.
- **Feb 25, 26, 27**, 10am *The Neverending Story* – play. Rated PG, recommended for ages 8+, at Beddington Theatre Arts Centre. Tickets \$17/each.
- **Apr 16** 10am *A Year with Frog and Toad* – musical. Rated K, recommended for ages 3+, at Beddington Theatre Arts Centre. Tickets \$13/each.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE: For show details, please see <https://artscommons.ca/arts-commons-presents/national-geographic-live/>

- **Mon, Jan 27**, 10:15am *Deadliest Lifesavers*. Recommended for grades 3-12 at Arts Commons. Tickets \$12/each.
- **Tues, Mar 17**, 10:15am *Building the Photo Ark*. Recommended for grades 3-12 at Arts Commons. Tickets \$12/each.
- **Mon, May 4**, 10:15am *When Women Ruled the World*. Recommended for grades 3-12 at Arts Commons. Tickets \$12/each.



OUT AND ABOUT AROUND CALGARY

Cochrane Area Families: Homeschool Preschool Screenings - Are you homeschooling a preschooler in Cochrane and would like to access free supports like speech therapy and occupational therapy for your 4 to 5 year olds? It Takes a Village is starting a pilot project to help preschool aged students, ages 4 to 5, access free screenings and (if recommended) free therapy sessions with wonderful local professionals (speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist and psychologist). Please contact Sam Kuperis, a fellow Willow Home Ed parent, at sam.kuperis@itaves.com for more information and to sign up for a free preschooler screening.

Nov 15, 10:30am – Picture Retakes at Third Academy. Contact your HEM or Joe Smith to arrange a sitting. Please arrive at, or very close to, 10:30am as retakes will not take very long.

CALGARY & AREA FIELD TRIPS

Kaykima Wilderness

GRADES K-9: Kaykima Workshops – There is still room to register for our Kaykima Workshops!

Our K-5 students will be meeting 12-2pm followed by our older students in grades 6-9 from 2:30-4:30pm. Please feel free to invite students in grades 6-9 from other homeschool boards to join these workshops (our K-5 workshops are quite full, and are for Willow Home Ed students only at this time). If you would like to participate please see the dates and times below and email Carmen Beck at cbeck@willowhome.ca to register!



All workshops are \$20 per student and take place at Bragg Creek Provincial Park. Please pay Rob via cash/EMT before or at the sessions. Rob will provide receipts if requested.

No prior experience is required!

- Monday November 18 – Orienteering: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- Monday December 2 – 5Cs of Survival: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- Monday January 20 – Fire Starting: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- Monday February 3 – Winter Shelters: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- Monday March 2 – Winter First Aid: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- Monday April 6 – Glue and Natural Adhesives: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- Monday May 4 – Axes: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- Monday June 15 – Summer Shelters: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm

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 Nicole at nschumm@willowhome.ca. We will showcase one student per month.



Ewan Piercey is a valued volunteer at the Cochrane Ecological Institute, where he works as a biologist in training, helping to care for and rehabilitate rescued wild animals. Ewan cares for moose and deer until they are grown and ready to leave, and often helps the vet treat animals. A recent patient was a rescued Owl named Sparky; Ewan helped hold Sparky and assisted with medical procedures. What an amazing way to contribute and learn biology at the same time! Way to go Ewan!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

November 1st is the deadline for students to register for writing their grade 12 diploma exams at the school of their choice. At Willow we **STRONGLY** encourage our high school students to sign up with MyPass. This is the way to register for diploma exams.



[MyPass.alberta.ca](https://myPass.alberta.ca) is an Alberta Education secure self-service website for Alberta students to:

- ✓ View diploma exam marks and request diploma exam rescoring
- ✓ Register to write or rewrite diploma exams with online payment
- ✓ View and print Detailed Academic Reports (DAR) and order high school transcripts
- ✓ View/update student personal information

Here is how you sign up for myPass online:

- Go to myPass.alberta.ca
- Set up an Education Account or sign in with social media login
- Enter your [Alberta Student Number](#) and date of birth (your HEM has this if you need it)
- You will receive two things – an email with a URL and a physical letter with a four-digit PIN
- Once you have received both the email and the letter, go to the URL contained in the email and enter the four-digit PIN.

University Open House Dates

- Nov 2, 2019, Red Deer College <https://rdc.ab.ca/future-students/student-life/open-house/open-house>
- Nov 2, 2019, MacEwan University <https://www.macewan.ca/wcm/MacEwanEvents/OpenHouse/index.htm>
- Nov 2, 2019, St Mary's University <https://www.stmu.ca/event/open-house/>