

The Willow Grove

October 2019



Willow Home Ed

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Principal's Message

I want to welcome all of our new families, and thank them for joining us at Willow Home Ed. I would also like to welcome back all of our returning families. Our wish for you all is to find a community of learners that understands the needs and desires that we share. I would encourage you all to reach out to someone and invite them to share some activity or celebration with you and your family.

The Willow Home Ed annual fall field trip was a wonderful opportunity to rub shoulders with some of our students as we enjoyed the beauty of the Kananaskis area. We were so lucky to experience such warm weather for our camping trip. We enjoyed the Troll Falls & Ribbon Creek Loop hikes, and had an educational history lesson as we explored the Kananaskis Internment Camp from WWII. I think the students' favorite activity was playing Gaga Ball, thanks goes out to Tommy and Karen for building it and bringing it to camp. I look forward to our next camping trip together.

Willow Home Ed continues to grow! We are happy to welcome two new Home Education Managers to our team. Carlie McCracken will be serving families in the Calgary and southern regions and Annette Kennett will be serving families in the Central Alberta area. We look forward to benefiting from their knowledge and experience.

Joe Smith
Associate Principal
Willow Home Ed

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

Willow Home Ed September Newsletter

UPCOMING DATES

Nov 1, Deadline to register for grade 12 January diploma exams

EDMONTON & AREA

Oct 1, 15, 29, Meet-up at Ritchie Hall

Oct 3, Picture Day at WISE – contact your HEM for an appointment

Oct 4, Explore the legislature.

Oct 18, Swimming at Commonwealth Pool

Oct 22, Coffee Night at Moth Café

CALGARY & AREA

Oct 7, Kaykima – Spruce Salve

Oct 9, Federal Election Class and Debate, part 1

Oct 16, Discover Archaeology at Glenbow Ranch

Oct 16, Federal Election Class and Debate, part 2

Oct 22, Picture Day at Third Academy – contact your HEM for an appointment

Oct 23, 24, Nov 6 Curious George 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/>

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.

October 3 - Picture Day at the WISE (Waldorf School). Please get in touch with your Home Education Manager to sign up.

October 4, 1:00pm-4:00pm – Field Trip Fridays – Explore the legislature. Please RSVP on the Friends of Willow Home Ed page

October 18, 1:30pm – Field Trip Fridays – Swimming at Commonwealth Pool

October 22, 7:00pm- Coffee Night – Meet us at the Moth Café (9449 Jasper Ave) for community and to answer any homeschooling questions you have

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

Every second Tuesday, 1-3pm - Meet up at Ritchie Community Hall – Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Oct. 29

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 for any of the following shows, should tickets come available:

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

- **Oct 23, 24 & 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, 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

Oct 9th, 3:30-5:00 and **Oct 16th**, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Federal Election Class and Debate at Nose Hill Library, Program Room

Oct 22 - Picture Day at Third Academy - 1pm Contact Joe Smith or your child's HEM if you want your child's photo taken. Retakes November 15

CALGARY & AREA FIELD TRIPS

Discover Archaeology Field Trip at Glenbow Ranch Prov. Park (FULL), Wednesday, October 16th. Contact HEM, Carmen for details at cbeck@willowhome.ca

Kaykima Wilderness

Our September 16th wooden spoons workshop was an enormous success! We had 30 Willow Home Ed students participating, and many siblings and parents out to Bragg Creek Provincial Park, west of Calgary, for this wonderful workshop. The participating students created their own wooden spoons out of birch or aspen wood using carving knives, hook knives and charcoal.

We are excited for all of our upcoming workshops and are thrilled that there is a timeslot open for our older students too! If you have students in grades 6-9 who 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.



Kaykima Outdoor Camps: NEW this year - Workshops for Grades 6-9 - No prior experience is required!

- Monday October 7 – Spruce Salve: Grades K-5, 12-2pm and Grades 6-9, 2:30-4:30pm
- 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

Federal Election “Class” and Debate at Nose Hill Library, Wednesday, October 9th, 3:30-5:00pm & October 16th, 11:30-1:00 pm

Homeschoolers are invited to join HEM, Nicole, on October 9th and 16th at Nose Hill Library in the program room, to learn about and discuss the upcoming federal election!

We will go through the three levels of the federal government, what are members of parliament, how a prime minister is elected, what are our political parties and discuss what issues are important to you! Then we will break into political parties and prepare for a debate on the last day – no need to speak in front of others if you do not want to! Perhaps we will end with a mock election after the debate.

All ages are welcome, although the material will be mainly directed towards grades 3 to 9. Parents are invited to stay and participate too! Contact Nicole at nschumm@willowhome.ca



CALGARY SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Third Academy is offering Willow students the chance to have their photos taken on the dates below. ID cards are available as well.

Photo Day takes place on October 22nd, from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Third Academy. Contact Joe Smith at josmith@willowhome.ca or your child’s HEM if you want your child’s photo taken. Please let us know your students’ names and grades.

Retakes will take place on November 15th, and will require an appointment as well.

Willow Sprouts – unfunded students in ECS/kindergarten who are signed up with Willow – can also have pictures taken. Sign up soon if you would like to take advantage of this photo opportunity.



KANANASKIS & BANFF NATIONAL PARK WILLOW HOME ED TEEN FIELDTRIP September 21st-23rd, 2019



This fall, from September 21st to the 23rd, about two dozen adventurous Willow teens, and a handful of intrepid Home Education Managers and parent volunteers led by fearless principal, Joe Smith, stayed in the beautiful Ribbon Creek Hostel in Kananaskis for an exciting outdoor ed trip. On their first day, the teens started with a three-hour hike to the upper Troll Falls – venturing out over the top of the falls after a lesson in safety, then hiked back to the hostel for dinner and the building of the epic Ga-Ga “pit”, designed by one of Willow’s students (thank you Tommy!!). The Ga-Ga game was a huge success – by the end of the weekend the students had put in hours and hours of competitive play-time in the pit!



The next day involved a lot of hiking! It started with a long hike on the Ribbon Creek Loop and a packed lunch beside the river. We discovered the cushiness of moss and which lichens and berries were good to eat (with help from Marcy, Carl, and Silvan). The students then toured around the site of Camp 130, a German POW camp from WWII, and taught each other about the camp and the POW’s lives.

On the final day, students cleaned up the hostel in a jiffy, re-seeded the grass in the Ga-Ga pit and hopped in the bus to go to Banff for a soak in the Upper Hot Springs, some sight-seeing, shopping and lunch. What a fun way to end a memorable trip!

Congratulations to all of the Willow students on their hard work around the hostel, perseverance on the hiking trail, competitiveness in the Ga-Ga pit, and your acceptance and friendliness towards the other students and leaders. You made this trip a great success!

BUSINESS FAIR FOR WILLOW STUDENTS



Stacey Piercey, a fantastic new member of our Willow Community has amazing entrepreneurial skills that she wants to share with Willow students! Stacey has created a student Business Fair that will run in Calgary in the late spring, and she is in the process of developing resources and workshops for all Willow students to use, even going so far as to look into teleconferencing for those who cannot attend or help families set up their own fair!

Stacey's workshops will be aimed at students between the ages of 6 and 17 although Willow Sprouts are welcome to participate. The goal of the classes will be to help every student come up with a unique idea, make and market their product, and then sell it at market. A fantastic opportunity!

Willow families are encouraged to check out Stacey's **Kids 2 Market** website for more information on developing your own business as well as to keep informed of important dates and how to sign up. <http://www.kids2market.com/> Check out what Stacey has to say about Kids 2 Market:

"Why is it important to have a Children's Business Fair? It's fun, yes, and people enjoy the experience but is it necessary? So, I began asking past participants about why they thought the experience was important to them and this is the list I got:

- *I love doing crafts and it's nice to share.*
- *I need more LEGO so I needed to make money.*
- *I liked the making of 'something'. Selling it makes it seem better.*
- *I didn't believe anyone would buy it! Now it's all gone! I wish I made more.*
- *My cupcakes are the best I've ever tasted. I wanted to share them.*
- *It's the first school project I actually enjoyed doing. No one made me do this.*
- *This was fun. I did math without help!*

What I heard was:

- *I can share my ideas with others.*
- *I can be in control of the outcome.*
- *I feel valued.*
- *My ideas are important. I'm proud of myself.*
- *I have confidence.*
- *I'm enjoying learning.*
- *I'm happy, and I'm smart.*



Why have a Children's Business Fair? The experience builds confidence, resilience, critical thinking and allows creativity to blossom. It empowers and instills pride in their work. It naturally engages the child in learning. It didn't matter how old they were, if they could read yet, if they were good at math, if they were really young or on the edge of adulthood. Every walk of life was present and it didn't factor into the outcome. There are no barriers. The added bonus? They really enjoy themselves. The whole experience so much fun.

Besides, the cupcakes really are that good!"

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

ADLC is open for registration for those students wishing to take on-line or distance learning courses. As a general rule, it is not recommended to take more than two courses at a given time. A list of available ADLC courses can be found here: <https://sis.adlc.ca/PublicCourseList.aspx>

Students choosing to do self-directed high school courses for credit this fall should have already met with, or be soon meeting with, their HEM to ensure that your program is appropriately set up. Completed course work for credit will need to be submitted by Jan 7th and May 30th for fall or winter credit to be applied.

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 is an Alberta Education secure self-service website for Alberta students to:

- ✓ View diploma exam marks and request diploma exam rescues
- ✓ 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

- OCT 5 2019 University of Calgary <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/tours-and-events>
- OCT 18/19 Olds <https://www.oldscollge.ca/about/events-dates/open-house-olds/index.html>
- OCT 18/19 SAIT <https://www.sait.ca/future-students/visit-campus/open-house>
- OCT 18/19 NAIT <https://www.nait.ca/nait/about/events/2019/open-house-2019>
- OCT 19 2019 Concordia University of Edmonton <https://concordia.ab.ca/future-students/open-house/>
- OCT 19 2019 University of Alberta <https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions/undergraduate/tours-and-events/open-house>
- OCT 26 2019 Mount Royal University <https://www.mtroyal.ca/Admission/OpenHouse/>
- OCT 26 2019 University of Lethbridge <https://campaigns.uleth.ca/open-house/>
- 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/>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our student spotlight is the place where our students can show what they have been doing; what they are passionate about such as a piece of school work, an award or achievement, a trip or an extracurricular activity, or a student run business. If you would like to include something (original art, poetry, short stories, video, articles, etc.) in a future newsletter, please send it to Nicole Schumm at nschumm@willowhome.ca. We will showcase one student per month.

FREE RESOURCES

The Royal Tyrrell Museum

The Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller offers FREE admission to homeschooling students and their primary teacher (parent) during the school year. To take advantage of this generous offer ask your Home Education Manager for a letter confirming the above information. (In the past they have permitted your letter of acceptance as proof of homeschooling but they are now asking for a more specific letter) Teacher Resource Guides are available as free downloads from their website. http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com/programs/school/teacher_resources.htm

Watch Read-Along Animated Storybooks with Your Kids.

Vooks.com is offering a one-year free promotion to homeschooling parents to watch read-along animated storybooks with your students.

<https://campaigns.vooks.com/teacherappreciation?fbclid=IwAR0O7z8E9rouh2RnJVYhAxs0Dv3B64rrJUxr1fv-UhjoU-0lXi05eMmy8>

Inktober - 31 Days, 31 Drawings

Every October, artists all over the world take on the Inktober drawing challenge by doing one ink drawing a day the entire month. Students are provided with creative daily drawing prompts. <https://inktober.com/>

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)

Challenge yourself to write a novel in a month or learn how to better write a story using NaNoWriMo's free PDF writing workbooks for elementary, middle school and high school students. The free workbooks can found at: <https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/pages/learning-resources> Or register students in the Young Writer's Program (YWP) <https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/pages/teaching-resources#lessons>

Crash Course and Crash Course Kids

These are short educational videos in a variety of subject areas. Videos are organized into courses. One course may be a series of forty 12-15 minute videos. Very entertaining! <https://thecrashcourse.com> or <https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse> For our youngest students there is Crash Course Kids - <https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

Khan Academy

This comprehensive website offers FREE online courses in math, science, history, grammar, computer science, and more. <https://www.khanacademy.org>