

The Willow Grove

December 2019



Willow Home Ed

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Principal's Message

As we approach the end of 2019, it leads me to reflect on all the successes that we have witnessed in our homeschooling community this past year, the activities we have shared, and the friendships that have developed. May you enjoy the upcoming holidays with your friends and loved ones, and may you all find peace and contentment.

I would like to invite you all to support the Run Santa Run walk or run on December 14, 2019. This is a joint venture with our partner the Third Academy. It is a fun event that the whole family can take part in. Run Santa Run is also a fund-raising event to support our field trips, and to help make our Dream School a reality. For more information, or to register online, please visit: www.runsantarun.ca Many of our Willow families have already registered to join in this fun event. Hope to see you there.

Joe Smith
Associate Principal
Willow Home Ed

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



Willow Home Ed September Newsletter

UPCOMING DATES

Dec 20 Resource reimbursement cheques mailed

Dec 23 – Jan 3 Third Academy closed

Jan 7 High school course submission deadline & ADLC diploma course deadline

EDMONTON & AREA

Dec 6 2-3pm Coding class at Woodcroft Library

Dec 13 1:30-4pm – Field Trip Fridays – Swimming at Servus Credit Union Place Pool, St Albert

CALGARY & AREA

Dec 2 Kaykima Workshop

Dec 3, 4, 11 & 12 Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical at Storybook Theatre

Dec 14 Run Santa Run! 2019

Dec 20 Gingerbread Contest at Crowfoot Library

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/>

RUN SANTA RUN! 2019

Join the staff and students of Willow Home Ed and Third Academy for a hilarious 3 km walk, or a 5 or 10 km run, dressed up in a Santa suit for , Santa Run! – a fundraiser to help support field trips like the annual Willow Teen Kananaskis/Banff trip, as well as Third Academy’s “Dream School Campaign” to move our school to a larger space that Willow can also use for workshops and activities.



What: Run Santa Run! 2019

Where: Eau Clair Mall/Prince’s Island Park, Calgary

When: Saturday, December 14th 2019 at 9:00 am for check in

How: Sign up at www.runsantarun.ca

Willow Students can run free. Donations are welcomed.

How to participate:

1. Run or walk with us for a chance to win prizes. Santa suit is provided! Our goal is to have 500 Santa’s participate and raise \$35K in pledges.
2. We are looking for media sponsors, including a Master of Ceremonies. We also need sponsors to provide participants with prizes, refreshments, and Santa Package stuffers. All sponsors will be recognized at the event and through our website — www.runsantarun.ca
3. Volunteer in the ‘drive’ up to December 14th and/or on the day of the event to distribute Santa Packages, direct participants, and staff the checkpoints and water stations. And please come out to cheer the Santas on!



Contact Joe Smith, Associate Principal., Willow Home Ed at josmith@willowhome.ca or 403-680-5124 if you would like to help.



RESOURCE CLAIMS



Fall Resource claims submitted prior to November 30th are processed in the first week of December. Expect a resource claim summary from your HEM with the amount of your fall refund, and the details of how much you can still claim for your spring resource refund.

Willow resource reimbursement cheques will be mailed **December 20th**. If you wish to make arrangements to pick up your cheque at Third Academy, please let your HEM or Joe Smith know.

Spring Resource claims will be due May 23rd, 2020.

CHOICE IN EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT

The Alberta Government wants to hear from Albertans on opportunities to protect, improve and enhance education choice in Alberta including: public and separate schools, Francophone schools, charter schools, private schools, early childhood education and **home education**.



Your feedback will be used to inform the development of the Choice in Education Act which will affirm that parents are the primary decision-makers in their child's education and support the range of choice within the current education system.

You can offer feedback at the link below until December 6th, 2019.

<https://www.alberta.ca/choice-in-education-engagement.aspx>

INSTITUTE OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

The Institute of Child Psychology is an organization dedicated to helping parents, caregivers and professionals help children lead emotionally healthy lives. Homeschooling parents can access free resources, workshops, live online courses, and attend Alberta's annual conferences. More information is available on their website: www.instituteofchildpsychology.com

KIDS 2 MARKET PODCAST



Check out the brand-new Kids 2 Market podcast!

<http://www.kids2market.com/thepodcast/>

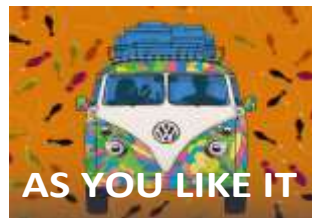
Stacey Piercey interviews students who have experienced success with her young entrepreneurs' class. It's a great opportunity to hear from not only graduates of the program, but other young entrepreneurs and their business experiences. Perfect for those interested in joining the FREE Willow Young Entrepreneurs class this spring, leading up to the first annual Willow Children's Business Fair!

A Willow student will be highlighted on the next Kids 2 Market Podcast! Tune in after November 30th to hear about Samantha's Artsy Aspie business and her first business fair. Sign up for the Kids 2 Market newsletter in order to be notified when a new podcasts air.

Stacey has also started a student only business showcase on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/kids2market/> Follow her to see some of the examples of the great business ideas used by a number of successful kids.

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*** – **SOLD OUT** (waiting list available) - Rated 8+ at Citadel Theatre. \$20/seat + approximate \$2 order fee per family.

OUT AND ABOUT AROUND EDMONTON

December 6, 2-3pm - Coding Day Woodcroft Library – please preregister on Friends of Willow Facebook group or send a message to your HEM

December 13, 1:30-4pm – Field Trip Fridays – Field Trip Fridays – Swimming at Servus Credit Union Pool in St. Albert

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

Every second Tuesday, 1-3pm - Meet up at Ritchie Community Hall – Dec 10th

Ongoing Homeschool Days Telus World of Science

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

- Telus World of Science Homeschool Math Fest is March 13, 2020. \$11.50/student - call to book tickets. <https://telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca/educators/real-people-real-science/>

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 HEM if you need contact information for these two groups or information about any of the above. Keep your eyes on the Friends of Willow Facebook group for more events to come.



Skiing and Snowboarding

GRADES K-12: Home Education Manager, Janelle Jamieson, has booked skiing and snowboarding at some local hills in the Edmonton area for the new year. Join us for the following afternoons for fun outside with friends. This is not a Willow event and is open to everyone.

Skiing and Snowboarding Dates and Locations:

- January 24 – Snow Valley
- January 31 – Rabbit Hill
- February 7 - Snow Valley
- February 14 – Snow Valley
- February 21 – Rabbit Hill



Please email Janelle at jjamieson@willowhome.ca for more information

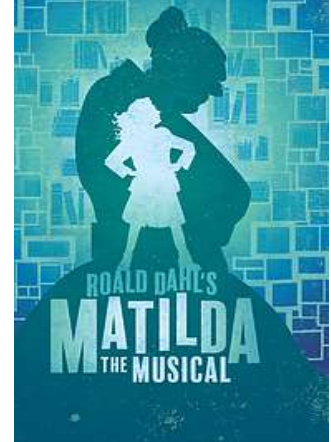
CALGARY & AREA NEWS

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>

- **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

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

Homeschool Preschool Screenings

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.

Kaykima Wilderness

GRADES K-9: Kaykima Workshops – There is still room to Register for our Kaykima Workshops being held in the Bragg Creek / Calgary area!



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!

Kaykima Workshop Schedule:

- 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

Gingerbread Decorating Contest

Friday, December 20, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, at the Crowfoot Calgary Library, program rooms

GRADES K-12: Join HEM, Nicole, at the Crowfoot library to enter your home-made gingerbread creation in friendly family gingerbread competition. Library patrons and families will judge the entries in three categories: Classic/Traditional, Most Creative, or Best Scene. Please sign up by December 16th.

A certificate will be awarded to the winners of each category. Donations of small prizes are welcomed! Extra categories may be added depending on numbers and prizes available.

Please arrive between 1:30 and 2:00 pm to sign in up your gingerbread creation. Judging will take place from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Students are invited to encourage library patrons to vote. The winners will be announced at about 3:15.

Voters will be given colour-coded ballot for each category to put in the envelope of the creations they wish to vote for. A compliment sheet will be beside each creation, and families and participants are encouraged to write a comment about what they like about each creation or to give a compliment.

Contact HEM Nicole Schumm at nschumm@willowhome.ca to confirm your entry or to donate a prize by December 16th.



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.

Olivia MacRae shares her beautiful piece of original art inspired by the Mona Lisa assignment in Purposeful Art, from *The Great Canadian Adventure*.

Well done, Olivia! It is a lovely picture.



PAT INFORMATION

All grade 6 or 9 students in Alberta may choose to write the provincial achievement tests (PAT). Grade 9s who wish to complete PATs have the option of writing in January. Part A of ELA 9 is on January 11th, and FLA 9 is on January 13th. Part B and all other subjects will be tested between January 21st and 29th.

Spring PATs for grade 6 and 9 have Part A of ELA and FLA written on May 3rd or 5th. Part B and all other subjects will be tested between June 14th and 25th.

Contact Joe Smith or your HEM if your student wishes to write PATs.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Diploma Course Information

Diploma Course Information

Scheduling diploma exams for students remains the responsibility of the student.

- January 7 - diploma course completion date for January diplomas for both ADLC and self-directed for credit courses.
 - Work from self-directed courses for credit must be turned in to Willow or your HEM.
- March 25 - diploma course completion date for April diplomas
- June 2 - diploma course completion date for June diplomas

January Diploma Exam Schedule:

- January 13, 9:00 am - English Language Arts 30–1 & 30-2 Part A
- January 14, 9:00 am - Social Studies 30–1 & 30-2, Part A
- January 15, 9:00 am - Français 30–1 Partie A & French Language Arts 30–1 Partie A
- January 21, 9:00 am - Français 30–1 Partie B & French Language Arts 30–1 Part B
- January 22, 9:00 am - Mathematics 30-1 Mathematics 30-2
- January 23, 9:00 am - English Language Arts 30–1 Part B English Language Arts 30–2 Part B
- January 24, 9:00 am - Social Studies 30–1 & 30-2 Part B
- January 27, 9:00 am - Biology 30
- January 28, 9:00 am - Chemistry 30
- January 29, 9:00 am - Physics 30
- January 30, 9:00 am - Science 30

ADLC Information

ADLC Important Dates

- December 23 - January 3 – Holidays for ADLC teachers, support staff is available Dec 23 & Jan 3
- March 31 - deadline for registering for 3-5 credit Student Instruction (SI) courses
- May 15 - deadline for registering for 1-credit SI courses
- June 15 - last day for non-diploma courses unless otherwise stated by the ADLC teacher
- June 26 - last day of school - all SI courses finalized, SI course expiry

LETTERS FOR CANADIAN ARMED FORCES MEMBERS



This holiday season, consider writing a letter to one of Canada's Armed Forces members to say hello, let them know what is going on in your corner of Canada, wish them your best, or even to say thank you for their service.

Christmas cards, letters and artwork from children are especially welcomed by soldiers deployed away from their families.

For those who want to send a card or a letter, [Canadian Armed Forces guidelines](#) require cards to be sent with a stamp if it's going to "any Canadian Armed Forces member." The item being mailed can't contain anything other than correspondence.

In order for letters and cards to be received by Forces members overseas by Christmas, the correspondence must be in Trenton before Dec. 9, but letters are welcomed at any time.

In a statement issued through a Canadian Armed Forces spokesperson, Master Warrant Officer Jacques Ouellette — who is in charge of postal operations at the Canadian Joint Operations Command — reiterated how meaningful correspondence can be to serving military members.

"In the morning, I would walk into the cafeteria to get breakfast, and everybody would stop eating and stare at me with lit-up eyes, hoping they would be the lucky ones to get a letter or a small package. For the soldiers, mail was almost as important as food," Master Warrant Officer Jacques Ouellette said.



If you would like to send a card or letter to a Canadian Armed Forces Member, below is the address provided by the Canadian Armed Forces to send a card or a letter to military personnel:

Any Canadian Armed Forces Member
P.O. Box 5004 Stn Forces
Belleville, Ont.
K8N 5W6