



November 2011

The News at Willow School

A Message from the Principal...

Happy November!

I love this time of year, when the air smells crisp and the sights around us change, bright with the changing leaves. The sights at school change too: students begin bundling up in warmer clothes as they get taller and grow socially and emotionally. It's the time of year that everything comes together. Routines have been set, expectations taught, and we all see the positive outcome from our beginning of the year teaching.

It's also the season of thankfulness. We are so grateful for the support of all of those we count on everyday - our staff, parents, volunteers, School Board, PTA, PMA, and Foundation 153. We have also been the benefactors of other community groups.

Willow just received \$500 in books from the Target on Halsted Street. Through a partnership with First Books, more than 1,700 Target Stores and Distribution Centers have donated thousands of books to schools. Willow School was the lucky recipient in Homewood this year.

For the second year, Willow parent Mrs. Tina Moore has acquired books for our school through The Wells Fargo Reading First Program. Each classroom will receive ten high quality books for their classroom library. Thanks so much for thinking of us once again, Mrs. Moore.

Our local Jewel Food Store on 183rd Street awarded our school with \$1500 to support our wellness program. As a part of the "Bee Healthy, Bee Smart" initiative, students are given the opportunity to taste a variety of fruits and vegetables throughout the year, and Jewel is helping supply the food. We hope this will lead to greater variety in our students' diet and more nutritious choices.

Willow School
1804 Willow Rd
Homewood, IL 60430
708-798-3720

Mary Ann Savage
Principal
Melissa Lawson
Assistant Principal

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District #153 Mission Statement

All Children
Will Learn;
All Children
Will Be Served.

Para los que hablen español se pueden llamar a Olimpia Tienstra con sugerencias o preguntas. 647-0088

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Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 6th!



Set your clocks back 1 hour
before you go to bed on
Saturday night.

Carson's Community Day Sale

Friday & Saturday
November 11 & 12

Coupon books are for sale
in the Willow School office for
\$5.00 each.

Willow receives all the money raised selling
the coupon books. These funds are used for
special programs, activities, and various
projects that directly benefit the students.

Important Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, November 2	Market Day pick-up, 6:15—7 pm @ James Hart
Sunday, November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends—Set your clocks back 1 hour!
Thursday, November 10	End of 1st Trimester
Friday, November 11	Veteran's Day, Schools closed
Friday & Saturday, Nov. 11 & 12	Carson's Community Day Sale
Monday, November 14	School Board Meeting, 7 pm @ Hart Media Center
Tuesday, November 15	PTA Book Fair, 8:30 am—2:30 pm and 6:30—8:00 pm @ Willow
Wednesday, November 16	PTA Book Fair, 8:30 am—2:30 pm @ Willow and 6:30—8:00 pm @ Millennium/Hart
Monday, November 21	Parent/Teacher Conferences, No school
Tuesday, November 22	Parent/Teacher Conferences, No school
Wednesday, November 23	Non-Attendance Day, No school
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving Day, Schools closed
Friday, November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday, Schools closed
Monday, November 28	School Board Meeting, 7 pm @ Hart Media Center
Wednesday, November 30	PTA Reflections, deadline for submissions Market Day pick-up, 6:15—7 pm @ James Hart



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We are also in partnership with Caribou Coffee on 183rd Street this year. Beginning in just a few weeks, we will spotlight artwork from Project 64 (all of our kindergarten classes) and Project 120 (some of our first and second grade classes). Every few weeks, different artists' works will be displayed for all of Homewood to enjoy.

If you happen to be in any of these establishments, let them know you appreciate their support of our school. Homewood's support just grows and grows!

"Believe in yourself, your neighbors, your work, your ultimate attainment of more complete happiness. It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in the spring, who reaps a harvest in Autumn." - B. C. Forbes

Happy Thanksgiving to all,
Mary Ann Savage
Principal

Parent Teacher Conferences

November is a great month at Willow School. It is a time when each teacher has the opportunity to meet with each family about your amazing children during our Parent Teacher conferences. Conferences will be held on November 21st and 22nd, and these are non-attendance days for students.

Please use these conferences to your advantage. Be sure to come with questions, concerns or compliments. Use the time to discuss things you are unsure about, or hopes you have for your child. If there are specific areas you want the teacher to address, please notify the teacher in writing the week before the conference so the teacher can be prepared.

Meeting to review your student's strengths and challenges from your perspective and that of the teacher, allows us to move forward in a way that best benefits each of our students. Thanks for taking the time to attend these important Parent Teacher conferences. Report cards will be distributed at your conference.

Join the PTA!

Please consider joining the Homewood PTA. They help fund many special activities and projects in the district and count on your membership to help do so.

Membership forms are available in the school office or online at www.homewoodpta.org —the cost is only \$10 per family.

The PTA will also have a table by the main entrance during Parent Teacher conferences if you'd like to sign up then. Thank you for your continued support in the PTA.



PTA Fall Book Fair

The PTA Book Fair is being held in conjunction with the Market Day Brochure merchandise pick-up on Tuesday, November 15th and Wednesday, November 16th. The Book Fair will be held in room 30 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday. You will also have an opportunity to shop Tuesday evening at Willow and Wednesday evening at Millennium/Hart from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm each night.



Parents are encouraged to attend the Book Fair. Use this opportunity to start or finish holiday shopping, or to build your personal library and support Homewood PTA at the same time. Teachers will have their "Wish Lists" available; if you would like to contribute to your student's classroom, you can purchase a book to donate to their teacher from the wish list.

Various books will be raffled off at the conclusion of the Book Fair. Each student will receive a raffle ticket in their classroom to drop at the fair. Winners will be drawn at the conclusion of the fair and announced at school Friday morning.

If you are interested in helping work the Book Fair or want more information, please contact:

Pam Scanlon-Hutton
PTA Book Fair Chair
patrickspuppies@att.net

Please join us and Fall into reading at the PTA Book Fair!

PTA Reflections Program

Unleash your artistic talents! This year's theme is
"Diversity Means ..."

Show your creativity in one of the following categories:

Visual Arts, Literature, Film Production,
Musical Composition, Photography, Dance Choreography.

The entry deadline is November 30th.

For more information please contact:

Maureen Winfrey
winfrey1323@att.net
799-7930



Check out the website at
www.ptareflections.org

"Be Safe" - Some Safety Reminders

The Willow Way is to BE SAFE, BE CARING, and BE READY. These are the three basic behavioral expectations at Willow School. What better way to show our children how to BE SAFE, than by following some simple safety precautions while bringing them to and from school each day?



1. When crossing Willow Road or Gottschalk Avenue, all students and adults must use the crosswalk with the crossing guard. The crossing guards are there for everyone's safety.
2. When driving westbound on Willow Road, pull onto the blacktop pad (off the actual street). Please pull forward to allow other cars to pull in behind you.
3. Students should remain in their seatbelts and car seats until the car has come to a complete stop. Children under the age of 8, by law, are required to ride in the back seat, properly secured.



As always, student safety is foremost in our minds. Please set a good example for our children, show them how to BE SAFE.

Student Council

Student Council is an extra-curricular activity that meets twice a month after school, one day for first grade students and one day for second grade students. Our main focus is to teach the students how to help their peers, their school, and their community. We will do many projects to promote leadership and good citizenship.

Our first meeting was held in October. We talked about Student Council and the role it plays in our school. The students brainstormed ideas for the upcoming school year. We also made a collage of pictures to thank the Homewood Fire Department for all they do for the community.

We are collecting Halloween candy to share with those in nursing homes and hospitals. Willow students are asked to bring in their extra Halloween candy the week of November 1st through the 4th.

Also, Student Council will be sponsoring the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Children are asked to bring in non-perishable food items to be shared with those less fortunate in our community. Please check the expiration date because we cannot accept food that has expired. The dates of the food drive will be November 1st through November 18th. Thank you for your generosity in sharing.

Student Council has pencils for sale that say, "Willow Wildcats." They are 25 cents and will be for sale on Thursdays at the book mobile. Please support Student Council so that we can continue to give to our school and our community.



PBIS: Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports

Our students are doing a great job of follow the Willow Way! And they are earning lots of Willow Wows! The Willow Wow Cart comes around to the classrooms every other Wednesday and students are allowed to "shop" with their Wows. The PBIS Team would like to thank the parent volunteers who have come to school to work the Willow Wow Cart. We appreciate your time and support!



Students will celebrate their accomplishments by attending a dance party during their regular gym time during the second week of November. Classes attend these special celebrations by redeeming 10 Wildcat Wow Certificates which they earn by following The Willow Way.

Also this month, the PBIS Team is hosting a parent workshop called "Harmonious Home". Flyers went home in backpacks last week.

Are morning and bedtime routines a constant battle?

Is mealtime a struggle?

Are daily routines feeling out of control?

Please join other families and Willow staff members for a discussion group so that your family can live in a



Harmonious Home Parent Workshop



At this workshop you will learn the rewards of working together and create strategies that teach responsibility in children.

There will be 2 identical workshops offered, pick which day/time is most convenient for you!

Tuesday, November 8th, 2011

6:30 pm

Willow School

OR

Wednesday, November 9th, 2011

9:00 am

Willow School

If you have questions or want more information, contact Margie D'Astici at 798-3720 or Margie.dastici@hsd153.org.

Labels for Education

Our Labels For Education collection is off to a great start this year! Thank you to everyone who is sending in labels and helping earn FREE merchandise for Willow School!

This Fall there is a special collection sheet coming home to you. Just collect one label from 4 different participating companies and earn 50 Bonus points. Extra collection sheets will be in the school office and are available on line at LabelsForEducation.com. Remember, please include your child's name on the collection sheets. They will be eligible for a prize during this Fall contest which ends November 30th.



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

**CLIP AND EARN
FREE STUFF
FOR YOUR SCHOOL**

So tell your friends and relatives to keep an eye out for the Labels For Education logos on many Pepperidge Farms, Prego, Campbell's, Swanson, Emerald and Pop-Secret products. Thank you and keep collecting those labels!

find out how

LabelsForEducation.com

Carla Eaheart, Labels For Education Coordinator

Box Tops for Education

Thank you for another successful month of collecting Box Tops! Our first submission will be going out in the mail this week and our first check will arrive in December. It should total over \$1,100.



the difference
1 can make.

Please remember when grocery shopping to look for products that participate in the Box Tops for Education program. If you shop at Sam's Club or Costco, they offer Bonus Box Tops coupons on some of their products.

The November collection sheet will be coming home soon. Please check expiration dates on the Box Tops. We do not receive credit for expired coupons. Please trim the Box Tops coupons around the dashed lines as best as you can, but don't cut off the expiration date. Please remember to put your child's name and classroom teacher on all submissions (collection sheets, Ziploc baggies, envelopes).

The following students have earned Culver's cards this month:

Kindergarten

Michael Gaughan

Sarah Senzel

Jacob Sline

First Grade

Marisa Robinson

James Sperti

Jack Barry

Charlotte Holly

Second Grade

Tristan Hosman

Olivia Hauge

Thank you for continuing to support the Box Tops for Education program!

Kristin Sline, Box Tops Coordinator

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

November 2011

Willow School

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ Pirates Go to School

In Corinne Demas's rhyming story, pirates share treasures during show-and-tell, carry parrots into class, and don't always behave. But they love school, and, just like the rest of the students, they read, work on math, and do arts and crafts.



■ Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse

Horse fans will enjoy Emily Arnold McCully's nonfiction book about a colt named Jim who knew letters, colors, numbers, and more. His owner, a former slave who became a veterinarian, took him on the road to perform for audiences and to encourage people to treat animals with kindness.

■ The Littlest Pilgrim

Mini is a young Pilgrim who wants to help out with the chores in her village. She tries to bake bread, stack wood, and do repairs, but she is too small. Then, Mini discovers something she can do. A sweet story about friendship by Brandi Dougherty.



■ The Runaway Tortilla

A tortilla runs away in this twist on *The Gingerbread Man* from Eric A. Kimmel. Tía Lupe and Tío José chase the tortilla—and so do donkeys, rattlesnakes, and other animals. Who will finally catch it? (Also available in Spanish.)



Sound it out!

Why does *treat* rhyme with *neat* but not with *great*? And why do *knock* and *knee* start with *k* but sound like *n*? As your child learns to read, he will discover that the English language can be tricky! Try these ideas for helping him make sense of letter sounds and patterns.

Beginning sounds

Encourage your youngster to listen closely to beginning sounds when you read aloud. Ask him to choose a letter, and each time he hears a word starting with it, he can ring a bell or snap his fingers. When he's trying to read a difficult word on his own, you can say, "Get your mouth ready to say that word," which will call his attention to the beginning sound. *Tip:* Point out words that have surprising first letters (*phone, knee*), and suggest that he keep a list to help him remember them.

Vowel pattern

Go on a pattern hunt! Vowel sounds can be spelled in several ways. For example, a long *o* is spelled by *oa* in *boat* or by *o*/consonant/silent *e* in *role*. In the car

or during a walk, take turns choosing a vowel pattern to look for on signs. If you pick *ay*, you might see "One Way" and "Children Playing." Explain to your youngster that some patterns make more than one sound. For instance, *ea* sounds like *a* in *break* but like *e* in *leak*.

Consonant combinations

Your child can learn letter combinations like *ch* and *pr* while he draws. Each of you secretly choose a combination (say, *ch*) and draw a scene full of items that contain it (*chairs on a porch*). Swap pictures and guess each other's letter combination. Then, help your youngster label the objects in the drawings. ♥



Writing nonfiction poetry

Poetry can help your child learn facts. Here are two kinds of nonfiction poems she might write:

● A "found" poem is made of words and phrases that the poet finds. Read a biography such as *Abe Lincoln's Hat* by Martha Brenner with your child. Ask her to choose a few important words or phrases (*Abe Lincoln, tall man, tall hat, smart lawyer, great president*). She can create a poem by writing them on her paper in an order that she likes.

● An acrostic starts with a single word, written vertically. Have your child pick a topic she's learning about in school, such as space. Then, help her come up with a line that begins with each letter in the word.
Example:

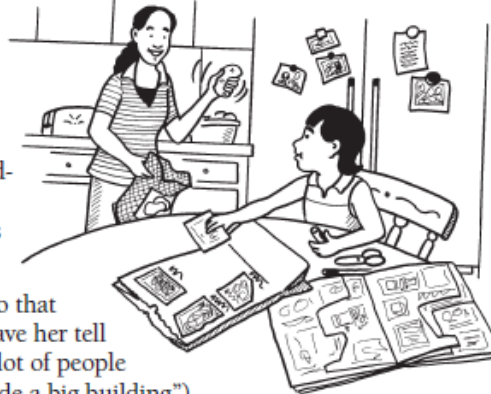


Sun shines
Planets circle
Astronauts fly
Comets soar
Earth spins. ♥

Discover the newspaper

Spark your youngster's interest in reading the newspaper—she'll explore different parts of the paper while she practices reading, writing, and spelling.

Photos. Ask your child to choose a photo that she likes from your community paper. Have her tell you what's happening in the picture ("A lot of people with colorful umbrellas are standing beside a big building").



Then, read the real photo caption together to see how closely it matches her description.

Headlines. Help your youngster read several headlines in the sports section. Explain that these are titles for the articles. Let her pick a simple one ("Girls' softball finishes strong"), and read it together. She can cut it out, glue it on paper, and draw a picture to illustrate it.

Advertisements. Your child can practice recognizing and spelling food names by making a picture grocery list. Give her a large paper grocery bag and the newspaper section with food ads. Call out each item that you need (potatoes, chicken, grapes), and have her cut its picture out and glue it on the bag. Ask her to print the name of each product underneath. Be sure to take her list along when you shop—and reuse it to bag your groceries.♥

Fun with Words That reminds me...

Boost your child's vocabulary with this quick word association game.

You say a word, and he replies with the first word that pops into his head. For example, if you say "cold," he might say "hot," "winter," or "ice." Encourage him to come up with a word quickly, without thinking about it too much. Then, you continue the game by saying a word in response to his (if he says "hot," you might think of "sun"), and then he might say "beach."



hot



beach

When you can't think of any more words, talk about how you came up with your answers. ("When you said *hot*, I said *sun* because it's hot. Then, the sun made you think of the beach!")

Tip: Try starting the game with a word you don't think your youngster knows well. You can explain its meaning to jump-start his thinking.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
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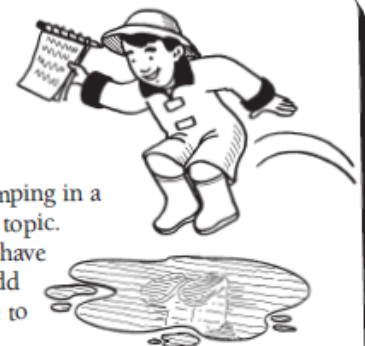
Q&A Think small

Q For a weekly homework assignment, my son has to fill one page in his journal. Sometimes he doesn't know what to write about. Any suggestions?

A Tell your child that something small, like jumping in a puddle or seeing a train go by, can make a good topic.

By choosing little things to write about, he'll have many ideas to pick from. He will also learn to add details and expand on his ideas, since he'll have to be specific to fill the page.

If he writes about a puddle, for instance, he can tell where he saw it, what it looked and felt like, what it reminded him of, or what it made him wonder. *Example:* "I was in the post office parking lot with my mom when I saw a huge puddle. It was shaped almost like a heart. I wonder why."♥



Parent to Parent A growing reader

My daughter is learning to read this year. At first, she was embarrassed because some of her friends were reading harder books in their reading groups.

I talked to her teacher, and he encouraged me to explain to Danielle that just because a book looks longer or more difficult doesn't mean it's more exciting or interesting. He suggested ways my daughter could respond if a friend made fun of her book. For example, she might say, "It's just right for me."

What's yours about?" or, "It looks easy, but it's really good."

He also said that it might help to remind Danielle that she gets to pick out her own library books and that she can read whatever she likes during "Drop Everything and Read" time in class.

I shared the teacher's advice with my daughter, and she seems to feel better. Now, she knows what to say to her friends, and she has been bringing home more challenging library books lately. I'm noticing an improvement in her reading already.♥

