

# ÉCOLE WILLOWS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER UPDATE

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## Basketball Update



**Our grade 4 and 5 boys continue to practice Tuesday and Friday at lunchtime and the grade 5 girls on Monday and Thursday at lunchtime. Our grade 4 girls practice on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The kids are really enjoying their time with their coaches and their skills are developing nicely.**

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### Musical



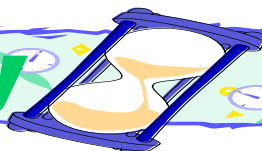
Mrs. Evans and Mme Fox, have been busy this week organizing this year's school musical. They were getting requests for specific roles in the musical, and are beginning to hold auditions with our grade 4 and 5 choir students. This year promises to be full of fun and I understand the theme is a 'musical revue' of 5 different musicals. This is an exciting time for the students as they rehearse at school and at home. They all put their hearts and souls into their performances.

**PAC MEETING**  
**WED. JAN. 18TH**  
**IN THE LIBRARY @ 7:00.**

### Dates to Remember

Jan. 18th Spelling Bee  
10:30 in the gym  
Jan. 18th PAC Meeting  
7:00  
Jan. 27th Pizza Day  
**Jan. 30th Kindergarten Registration**  
Feb. 1 Ready Set  
Learn 10:30—11:00

**Happy New Year**





# Welcome To School

The Greater Victoria School District is, once again, holding an information session for parents whose children are going to be starting school next year. This year the "Welcome to School" evening will be held on:

**Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

**6:30 – 8:30 pm SJ Willis Auditorium**

**General Kindergarten Information**

**and**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2012**

**6:30 – 7:30 pm SJ Willis Auditorium**

**Early French Immersion**

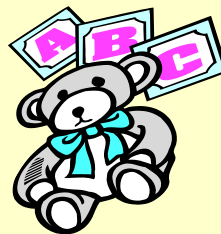
**Registration Information for Kindergarten and Grade 1**

Come and learn more about what awaits your children as they begin this new adventure.

## Ready, Set, Learn

On **Wednesday, February 1st** we are inviting parents to bring their 3 and 4 year olds to École Willows Elementary School to take part in our **Ready, Set, Learn** event. This year we have maintained the time and will be holding our annual program from **10:00–11:30 am**. We will have lots of things for you and your children to participate in. Come and join us in our gym for a **snack at 10:00**, followed by a story, and then activity stations to keep you busy until 11:30.

If you know of anyone in our community who has children ages 3 or 4 please let them know of this opportunity. We would appreciate you passing along this information. If they have questions, they can call the school at **250-592-2486**.



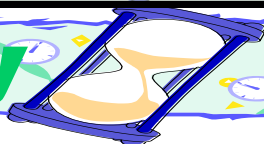
Your R.S.L. Committee



**Pro D. Day Mon. Jan. 23rd**

**No school in session**

**Happy New Year**



# WILLOWS' KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration begins on **Monday, January 30th** and runs through **Friday, February 3rd**. On Monday registration will begin at **8:00 a.m.** for both **English and French Immersion programs**. Tuesday—Friday registration will be from 9:00—3:00.

When you come to register your child please ensure you have the following documents with you:

- ◆ your child's **birth certificate**
- ◆ if you **do not have** a Canadian birth certificate, please bring a Canadian passport, permanent resident card, citizenship card or landed immigrant documentation
- ◆ **proof of residency** (a utility bill, lease agreement, driver's license, etc.)
- ◆ **health information**—medical care card number, Doctor's number
- ◆ **emergency contact information**

**We will be holding registration in our school gym.**

You will be given a numbered registration form indicating the order you arrived and the forms were given out. Please take your time in filling out the information asked for. Once you have completed the form, please bring it to Ms. Bourcier or Mrs. Turpin at the registration desk and they will process your information.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new students and know that they will truly enjoy their time at Willows.

We will be hosting an orientation session for our new Kindergarten students on Friday, May 11th. You will receive more information as that time comes closer.



# Foundation Skills Assessment



Well that time of year has come again when all students throughout the province in grades 4, 7, and 10 take their Foundation Skill Assessment (FSA). This province-wide program assesses student performance in selected areas of the curriculum to provide information regarding performance in relation to provincial standards for students at this time of year.

The FSA tests are not designed to be comprehensive, but rather to provide a snapshot of how well students are demonstrating expectations, in particular curricular areas, at a particular point in time.

Achievement of specific subject knowledge will continue to be provided to parents in student report cards.

The grade 4 students at Willows will be involved in taking these assessments during the weeks of **January 16th—February 24th.**

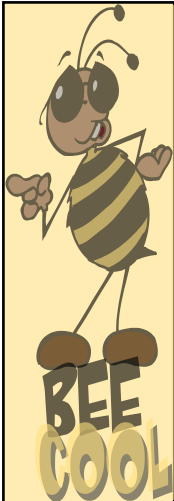
The curricular areas to be tested are Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

The Foundation Skills Assessments are being written in January and February so that students' results will be back to the school and parents before the end of June. We will be sending home the individual results to Grade 4 parents as soon as we received them.

Parts of the tests will be taken on-line and some will be the traditional paper and pencil tests.



## Willows Spelling Bee - 2012 UPDATE



Students continue to meet with Mrs. Goorachurn to learn and practice new words in preparation for the Canwest Canspell 2012 Spelling Bee which will take place next month. The children have been working with Mrs. Goorachurn for awhile now and are able to spell words that most of us don't use often and some of us have never heard of.

We want to congratulate the students for sticking with it for this long. We wish them all the best as they get ready for our

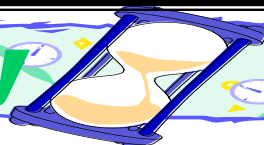
**Willows School Bee**


**at 10:30 on Wednesday, January 18th  
in our auditorium.**

## Thinking about French for Grade One?

If your son or daughter is currently in one of our **English Kindergarten classes**, and you were hoping to transfer into a **Grade One French Immersion class** for **September 2012**, you **MUST re-register** for that class during **Kindergarten Registration Week — January 30th — February 3rd** **at your French Immersion Catchment school.** It can not be assumed that because you are currently attending Willows that you can simply transfer into the French Grade One class. **Moving from one program to the other, even within the same school, is not guaranteed and is handled on a first come first basis.** If you miss registration week there is another opportunity during the transfer process later in February.

**Happy New Year**





Keep **S**afe

Think **T**eam

**O**wn Your Actions

Show **R**espect

**M**ake a Difference

**Monterey Middle School**  
**Orientation**  
**February 9, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**  
**Multi-purpose Room**

*(For students new to Monterey in September 2012)*

- **The Middle School Model**
- **Monterey Middle School**
- **Monterey Middle School from students' perspective.**
- **Slide show**
- **PAC**
- **Questions**
- **Tour of the School**
- **Refreshments**





**L'École Intermédiaire**  
**Lansdowne**  
**Middle School**

*Attention Grade 5 Students:*

You and your parents are invited to our **OPEN HOUSE!**

*Lansdowne Middle School*

1765 Lansdowne Road (corner of Lansdowne & Richmond)  
 Wednesday, February 15, 2012  
 7:00 pm to 8:30 p.m.

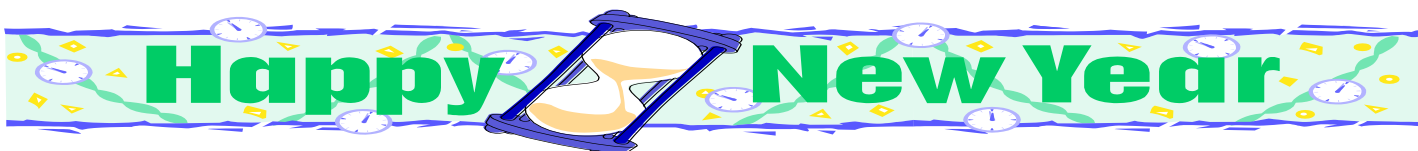
*We'll begin with an assembly in the gym, starting at 7 p.m.*

*Come and meet our teachers, find out more about our programs, hear our band and choir, and visit our classrooms!*

Principal: Ken Andrews

Vice-Principal: Jennifer MacDonald

Phone: (250) 598-3336





# Parent Bulletin Board



## Little League Baseball SVI Softball



### ARE BOTH AT LAKEHILL BALL

At Lakehill Ball, boys and girls can start as early as 3 years old

Boys age 3 – 12

Girls age 3 – 16

Registration starts ONLINE: January 20, 2012

For more information please click here <http://www.lakehillball.com/>

#### French After School Programs

La Place French offers after school classes and homework help in French.

Homework Help All Levels

Fun French K-3

Beyond Fun French Gr. 4 –6

Learn French for Fun K-3

For more information about these and other programs please click here

[www.laplacefrench.com/our-programs](http://www.laplacefrench.com/our-programs)

#### Winter Art Classes at

### *The Point Box School of Art!*

If you are interested in finding out more about these classes for ages 2-5, 6-10, and 11-16 please call 250-418-0924.

In the past we have had a bulletin board for parent notices for student and parent opportunities in our community. We now have every room filled with students and so all the bulletin boards are being used. SO we are dedicating one page in our newsletters to items that would have been posted. We will take them in a first come first published order. We hope this will benefit our students.

#### INTERNET SAFETY AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP FOR PARENTS 101



Monterey Middle School invites you to attend the **Parent Ed Night** we are having on **Monday, Jan 23, 7:00—9:00** in the multipurpose room. We are pleased to have Staff Sergeant Darren Laur of the Victoria City Police come and make this presentation.





# BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

*Happy New Year and welcome back!*

## BC's EDUCATION PLAN

The BC Government announced in the 2011 Speech from the Throne, that British Columbia will be changing the BC Education system and moving towards a more personalized learning model throughout the Province for all of our learners. The Ministry is reaching out to the citizens of BC in a unique way, through the [BC Education Plan](#) Blog ([www.bcedplan.ca](http://www.bcedplan.ca)), and they want your opinion. BCCPAC strongly recommends you have a look. This blog has hundreds of comments already from many different sources. The blog is moderated with prompt same day replies from the moderators to any questions or suggestions. Even if you don't have any specific suggestions yourself, you may want to comment on what other people are saying or suggesting. A great source of information and clues to the future of education in BC.

*Check out the Ministry of Education's December 2011 press release on the Education Plan and other year end information.*

[http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/UserFiles/File/Gov%20Press%20Release/2011/12-27-11-plan\\_focused\\_on\\_potential.pdf](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/UserFiles/File/Gov%20Press%20Release/2011/12-27-11-plan_focused_on_potential.pdf)



The Ministry is assessing future directions for BCeSIS. Gartner Consulting was hired in spring 2011 to review BCeSIS and recommend next steps. Gartner's report recommends that the Province purchase a new student information system, continuing to use BCeSIS until it can be implemented. You may wish to read [Gartner's full report](#), its executive summary or a [summary of its findings](#) prepared by the Ministry of Education.

If you use BCeSIS or have an interest in the future of a province-wide student information system, we want your views. This survey aims to gather feedback on Gartner's findings, requirements for a common student information system and the features such a system needs to support personalized learning.



**Please complete the [Individuals Involved in Education](#) or [Parents & Students](#) survey.**

## *Change in BCCPAC Board of Directors*

We regret to inform the membership that Hollie Tarasewich is no longer on the BCCPAC Board of Directors. We wish Hollie all the best in her future endeavours.

**BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils**  
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*Our Vision: To improve public education for all students by including and supporting parents*

