

# École Willows School Newsletter

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## Principal's Message

Over the past couple of weeks I have been in and out of classrooms for a variety of reasons. While on my visits I have been watching the children taking part in every kind of activity. Most recently I was visiting Division 7 during a guided writing lesson about eagles. As I watched the children immersed in the directions Ms Fox was giving them I thought back to my writing lessons at school. We have come so far in setting up our students up for success. I remember my teacher putting the title of our writing piece on the board and instructing us to begin writing. In Division 7 the students were guided through a visualization of what they would hear, see, smell, and feel as they stood by the Goldstream River and watched an eagle find its prey.

The writing that came from that lesson was clear, focused, and very descriptive. Further on in this newsletter I have inserted a sample so you can see what wonderful things our children can do. Things like this lesson are happening in all our classrooms everyday, and students are *experiencing* their lessons. They are making personal connections to their work. Teachers are making the tasks the children undertake as meaningful as possible. And as the research indicates the more children can connect with what they are learning the more they will get out of it. Enhancing student learning must be foremost in all our minds and to this end we continue to add new technology to classrooms. Smartboards are appearing in classrooms as we can fund them and with this technology comes a steep learning curve for everyone as we work our way through the labyrinth of 'how tos' and 'what ifs'. Technology is a wonderful thing and we should be incorporating it into our classrooms as it is being incorporated into our daily lives, but never underestimate the power of a fantastic lesson brought to life by a creative teacher.

Wendy

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### Dates to Remember

- Fri. Dec. 2 Reports come home
- Fri. Dec. 2 Holly Tree Festival.
- Mon. Dec. 5 Assemblies 9:00 and 1:00
- Thurs. Dec 8 Story Theatre
- Thurs. Dec. 8 White Christmas 7:40
- Fri. Dec. 16 Last day of Classes.
- Tues. Jan. 3 Classes begin



Last day of classes is Fri., Dec. 16th.  
Classes begin on Tues., Jan. 3rd.



Swim Club

We have now had two practices at Oak Bay Rec. and we are off to a good beginning. Students have all been assessed and we are ready to start our training. Registration forms will be coming home in the near future. Please ensure that your son's or daughter's registration form, and payment, is handed into the office as soon as possible after you receive it. Thanks to Mme Lawson, Mme O'Rourke, and Mme Makaroff for being our sponsors. We are looking forward to a wonderful season of swimming.



**Basketball**

Basketball has begun once again at Willows. The **grade 4 and 5 boys' team** have scheduled practices each week on Tuesdays, and Fridays at lunchtime. The **grade 4 and 5 girls' team** has also started up and their practices are as follows: Grade 4 girls Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:55 am, and Grade 5 girls Monday and Thursday at lunchtime.

We would like to thank Mr. Walker and our parent volunteers, Mike and Laura McCulloch for their support and expertise. The students really appreciate your dedication to them and to the school.



**Volunteers Needed!**

We are looking for parent volunteers to help shelve books in the library. Students at Willows seem to be voracious readers and we just don't seem to be able to get the books back on the shelves as quickly as we would like to and this can create a problem for us and the children. *Very simply—we need help getting the books back on the shelves.* If you think you can help us out and are able to donate an hour of your time, please contact Laura Turpin at 250-592-2486 or by email at [lturpin@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:lturpin@sd61.bc.ca). We will be able to work out a schedule that works for you. Thanks!

the **LIBRARY**



## Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair is underway just in time for the holiday season. Books make wonderful gifts for kids. The book fair will be open:

Thursday and Friday morning  
from 8:30—8:42

Thursday after school until 3:20  
Friday during the Holly Tree Festival.



**W** It seems like the colder, wetter weather has now arrived. We would ask that you ensure your son or daughter is dressed for whatever the day may bring. Many students are still coming to school in clothing that does not let them play outside without being cold. Please remind your children that wearing a coat outside is a good way to prevent a cold or the flu.

**E** Hopefully with your help from the home front and our reminder as school we will be able to keep them from getting ill.

**A** The primary classes would also appreciate it if you could send a spare pair of pants in the backpack.

**T** Sometimes outside children fall and get muddy and require a change. Thanks for your support.



# 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 – 8:00 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**

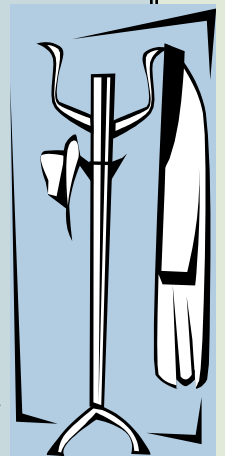
Come and learn more about what awaits your children as they begin this new adventure.



## Coats for Kids

Once again the families of École Willows School have risen to the challenge. We have been able to deliver 201 coats to the children at George Jay Elementary. Being able to take them to a school in our community made this project very real. Mrs. Lee, the Principal of George Jay has written to say **“I wish to thank you for your most generous donation. Many of our students are in great need of this type of gift at this time of year. Thank you for caring and sharing.”**

Thank you Mrs. Sainsbury and her class for taking up this worthwhile opportunity.





## Willows PAC

# Holly Tree Festival



Friday, December 2nd, 2011

6pm - 9pm

We would like to take this final opportunity to let you know we are looking forward to seeing all our Willows families out on Friday evening. This evening is fun for everyone and has been a tradition at Willows for many years. We will have games for the children, as well as craft tables in the gym and of course our Bottle Bonanza.

We would like to thank everyone who has taken part in preparing the bottles for our bonanza. We will be accepting them right up until Friday morning. Also, thank you to all those who have volunteered to help out with either set-up, an evening slot to run a game, or clean-up. If you would still like to volunteer please contact Misha Dhillon at 250.370.7001.

*See You There!*

## Report Cards

Report cards will be coming home on Friday, December 2. Although the report card itself will not be the same as in years past we would ask that you sign and return the envelope to the office, letting us know that you have received it. Mme Lawson's class will be getting a report card in the usual form. I would encourage you to contact your child's teacher if you have any specific concerns about your child's progress. Teachers have been contacting parents and updating them this month.



## Parent Teacher Interviews

Our Parent/Teacher interviews scheduled for Wed., December 7<sup>th</sup> and Thurs, December 8<sup>th</sup> have been postponed as a result of the Teacher Job Action. Therefore the students will attend a full day of classes on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, with **no early dismissal**.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the office.





### Eagles by Spencer

There sits an eagle in its nest in the top of the tallest maple tree. His wings spread and his eyes narrow as he spots his target—a large salmon swimming downstream. The eagle swoops down toward its prey, talons bared. It snatches the salmon up in seconds, taking it back to its nest to eat. The salmon still squirming around when the eagle begins to peel off its skin. The salmon is devoured in no time as the eagle hacked it up to feed its hungry babies.



Spencer was guided through the first part of the lesson and was asked to imagine what he would see, hear, and feel as he watched an eagle. He was then given a very short period of time to get this thoughts on paper. What you see here is his initial work. It has not been edited, marked or re-written –yet.  
Well done Spencer.

How many snowflakes can you find printed in our newsletter? If you think you know come to the office and tell us. You might be close enough for a small treat.



## Christmas Concert Information



Our Christmas concerts are fast approaching, and all of our choir and stings students are working hard to get ready. Performances will be held on:

**Wednesday, Dec. 14th at 1:00 pm—Senior and Discovery Choirs, Thursday, Dec. 15th at 1:00 pm Senior and Chatham Choirs.**



There will be two school performances on **Tuesday, Dec. 13th at 9:00 - Senior and Discovery Choirs and at 1:00 -Senior and Chatham Choirs.**

All performers are asked to wear **white on the top and black on the bottom** for all performances. If this is difficult for you please contact Mrs. Evans at the school 592.2486.

Parents with children in both the Senior and Junior Choirs will need to select the performance they will attend based on when their **Junior Choir** member is singing. Parents with a child in each of the Junior Choirs please contact Mrs. Evans and she will try to accommodate you with one performance.

We encourage those who would like to bring young family members to a performance to choose one of the Tuesday shows.

**There will be a silver donation at the door. This year monies donated will be given to the United Way to help local families.**

Thank you/merci beaucoup!  
Gail Evans and Marilyn Fox





# DECEMBER 2011



# DÉCEMBRE 2011

SUN DIM	MON LUN	TUE MAR	WED MER	THU JEU	FRI VEN	SAT SAM
				1 Homework Club 12:15 Swim Club 4:00 OB Rec	2 Holly Tree Festival 6-9 Report cards go home Spelling Bee Club 12:15	3
4	5 Assemblies at 11:00 and 1:00 4/5 Book Club 12:15	6	7	8 Story Theatre 11:00 Swim Club 4:00 OB Rec "White Christmas" McPherson Theatre. 7:40 pm. Homework Club 12:15	9 Spelling Bee Club 12:15	10
11	12 4/5 Book Club 12:15	13 School Performances of concert at 9:00—Sr. and Discovery and 1:00. - Sr. and Chatham	14 Christmas Concert at 1:00 pm Senior and Discovery	15 Christmas Concert at 1:00 Senior and Chatham Swim Club 4:00 OB Rec	16 <b>Last Day of classes</b> <b>Pizza/Sushi day.</b>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# Seasons Greetings

