



# Willard Magnet Elementary

## An International Baccalaureate School

### Monthly Newsletter



**“Committed to Success”**

301 S. Madre Street, Pasadena, CA 91107

<http://willard.pasadenausd.org>

**Dr. Debra J. DeBose**  
Principal

**February 2011**

#### Special Points of Interest:

- Message from the Principal
- Willard Nominates Two Teachers for Rotary Teacher of Excellence Award
- Spring Testing Schedule
- PTA Corner
- Notice of Meetings
- Willard Annual Fund Update
- Birthday Book Club
- Open Enrollment
- BrainPOP, BrainPOP, Rr., and BrainPOP Español

#### Inside this Issue:

<b>PTA Corner</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Opportunities for Parent Involvement</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Open Enrollment</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Willard Annual Fund News and Donors List</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Birthday Book Club</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Contact Us</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>BrainPOP License for Willard School</b>	<b>4</b>

#### From the Principal’s Desk

##### Greetings:

*Report cards were distributed on February 2 and the second semester will begin on February 7. I encourage parents to review report cards with their children, highlighting their strengths and encouraging more effort in their challenge*

##### areas.

*Over the last two weeks, I have been working with classroom teachers and our resource teachers to talk about students who are working below grade level standards and need additional assistance. We*

*identified more than 15 different interventions that we are using to improve their academic skills and optimize their efforts to meet grade level standards by the end of the year.*

*Finally, I wish you all a Happy Valentine’s Day!*

#### Willard Nominates Two Teachers for Pasadena Rotary Teacher of Excellence Award

On February 4, Willard School’s faculty nominated **Theoni Katsafados** and **Dawn Goldenberg** for the prestigious Pasadena Rotary Teacher of Excellence Award.

The goal of the program is to foster and encourage excellence in teaching and dedication to education in PUSD. In addition, Rotary wishes to demonstrate in a concrete way that the community cares about the quality of public schools by conducting a comple-

tion to select those exceptional teachers that deserve special recognition.

From the 38 nominees throughout the district, only five will be selected to receive this prestigious award. Awards of \$1,500 will be given to each of the five teachers selected.

As part of the selection process, Ms. Goldenberg and Mrs. Katsafados will write essays describing their teaching practices and philosophy. We hope

that the selection committee will see the excellence of these two outstanding teachers and give them the public recognition they so richly deserve; however, regardless of the decision made by the Rotary, the Willard family gives a standing ovation to Ms. Goldenberg and Mrs. Katsafados for their years of dedicated service to the students at Willard School and their contribution to the professional growth of their colleagues.

#### Spring Testing Schedule Released

The annual rite of spring, California’s Standardized Testing and Reporting (S.T.A.R.) will begin in March. We are preparing your students for this test through daily classroom instruction.

Students will be tested in writing, English language arts, math and science. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

##### **STAR Writing (4th grade only):**

Tuesday, March 1

Wednesday, March 2 (make-up day)

##### **STAR English Language Arts and Math (2nd–5th grades) and Science (5th grade only):**

Monday, May 2–Friday, May 13



**PTA Corner** by Christine O'Brien

**STAY CONNECTED – receive weekly email updates!** If you haven't already, please sign up for the Willard email loop to receive information on upcoming school events, school news and volunteer needs. Just visit: <http://willard-pta.org/subscribe> to subscribe.

teachers and school employees who work with our principal to develop, review and evaluate Willard's yearly budget and school improvement programs. SSC meetings are open to all, and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Questions? Larry O'Brien at [lobrien@risksol.com](mailto:lobrien@risksol.com).

**THANK YOU!** to all Willard families who came out for the Baja Fresh Restaurant Night fundraiser! Please continue to show your support for Willard as our fundraising restaurant nights come up throughout the school year. It's an easy and fun way to support Willard.

Are you a bookworm? Do you have a secret desire to be a librarian? Our librarian, Ms. Peterson, and the PTA could really use your help to organize our **March Scholastic Book Fair**. Please contact PTA Membership Chair Sara Dachel at [sara.dachel@HRTechnologies.com](mailto:sara.dachel@HRTechnologies.com) or 626.644.8288 or PTA Publications Chair Christine O'Brien at [chris-syob@mac.com](mailto:chris-syob@mac.com) or 213 952 2821.

**PARENT WORKDAY: Thursday, February 24, 8:00-11:00am in the Auditorium.** Join Willard parents to help teachers prepare materials for classroom instruction. Parents with young children at home are welcome to bring their children with them. Questions? Patty Frontino: [pfrontino@pusd.us](mailto:pfrontino@pusd.us) or 626 396 5690 ext. 58026.

**THANK YOU!** to everyone who joined our Willard Green Team and helped out on Beautification Day and/or participated in our E-Waste Recycling event! Our campus gardens look beautiful, and the e-Waste event was a huge success - we can feel good about keeping all that waste out of landfills! Thank you Willard Green Team and a **BIG THANK YOU** to PTA Green Team Chair, Jackie DiGiovanni, for organizing both events.

**FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:**  
**SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (SSC) Meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 3:00-5:00pm in the Library.** The SSC is a state mandated, elected group of parents,

**COFFEE with the PRINCIPAL: Friday, February 25, 8:00am in the Library.** Come and enjoy some breakfast treats with Dr. DeBose and chat about all -things-Willard! Find out what the latest and greatest happenings are at our school.

**MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT!**

**Mark Your Calendars: SSC and Advisory Meetings in January**

African-American Parent Council  
Date: TBD  
Time: TBD  
School Library

School Site Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 23, 2011  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
School Library

English Language Development Council  
Thursday, February 24, 2011  
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
School Auditorium

**Open Enrollment 2010-2011**

General Open Enrollment ends on February 11. Open Enrollment is Pasadena Unified School District's voluntary school of choice program that provides resident students with an opportunity to attend schools outside of their immediate neighborhoods. This district's website contains information to guide you through the open enrollment process.

The 2010-2011 PUSD Parents' Guide to Schools is now available in print and [online](#). Any questions you may have or information you need regarding Pasadena Unified School District's Open Enrollment process can also be accessed at the Welcome Center, PUSD's parent and community resource center. The Welcome Center is located at 351 South Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Room 121 and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**NEWS FROM THE WILLARD ANNUAL FUND**



A very big  
**THANK YOU** to one of our most  
valued local business supporters  
— **NORMAN’S NURSERY!**



Norman’s Nursery generously  
donated a huge selection of  
plants for us to sell at our De-  
cember Rummage Sale. This is  
two years in a row that Nor-

man’s has so graciously sup-  
ported our event. Their dona-  
tion accounted for a large part  
of the total funds raised. 100%  
of the money raised from the  
sale of plants went to the  
Willard Annual Fund.

**HONOR ROLL OF DONORS**

We have now raised over  
\$13,000! Make your contribu-  
tions today. You can make a con-  
tribution via a check made out to  
Willard annual fund and look for  
our upcoming fund raising  
events.

**New Individual/Family Do-  
nors**

Kebok Foundation  
Cynthia Rosedale

**Individual/Family Donors**

Anonymous (4)  
Erick and Alejandra Aguilar  
Bank Family  
James and Debra DeBose  
Guy & Galith Baruch  
Chuan Chen  
Marilyn Gamboa  
Jill and Paul Garnett  
Mr & Mrs Brian Golfarb  
Alan Ho  
Vivian Holmes  
Kyung-Soo Inn  
Cole Jackson

Miles Jackson  
Sherry & Geoff Johansing  
Benjamin Karish  
Haley and Marc Karish  
Michael Karish  
Chuan Chen & Yufeng Lin  
Rebecca Little  
Chris & Rowena McDonald  
Karen Montgomery  
Andrea P. Nelson  
O’Rafferty Family  
Pan Pacific Fiber, Inc.  
Matt and Corrine Parker  
Rene & Regina Parola  
Max and Libby Shiner  
Philip & Rosa Shiner  
Leslie & Fabio Tesei  
Hua Wang  
Fon Wong & Debra Holmes  
Wong  
Susan M. Yang  
Billy Yin

**Corporate Matching and  
Volunteer Grants**

City National Bank  
Time Warner (Warner Bros)

**THIS MONTH’S RAFFLE**

Tickets for four (4) to LAKERS’  
GAME

Look for flyer and raffle tickets in  
child’s backpack!

**January Birthday Book Club Donations**

**T**hanks for your continued sup-  
port of the Willard School Birthday  
Book Club. This program gives our  
students the opportunity to donate a  
book to the school library during  
their birthday month. Our special  
thanks to the students who donated  
**BIRTHDAY BOOKS** in January:

Nubia Carachure  
Gabriel Cortez  
Angelica Garcia  
Christian Garcia  
Erick Garcia  
Ashley Gil  
Gyusik Inn



Michael Karish  
Christina Marie Leyva  
Kiana McDonald  
Sara Isabella Namvari  
Colin O’Rafferty  
Max Stukel  
Kasandra Mae Valenzuela



**Willard Magnet Elementary**  
An International Baccalaureate School

**301 S. Madre Street**  
**Pasadena, CA 91107**

Phone: 626-396-5690

Fax: 626-744-3375

Website: <http://willard.pasadenausd.org/>

***Committed to Success***

Profile	Attitudes
• <i>Inquirers</i>	• <i>Appreciation</i>
• <i>Thinkers</i>	• <i>Commitment</i>
• <i>Communicators</i>	• <i>Confidence</i>
• <i>Risk Takers</i>	• <i>Cooperation</i>
• <i>Knowledgeable</i>	• <i>Creativity</i>
• <i>Principled</i>	• <i>Curiosity</i>
• <i>Caring</i>	• <i>Empathy</i>
• <i>Open-Minded</i>	• <i>Enthusiasm</i>
• <i>Well-Balanced</i>	• <i>Integrity</i>
• <i>Reflective</i>	• <i>Independence</i>
	• <i>Tolerance</i>
	• <i>Respect</i>



## Willard Students and Families Now Have Access to BrainPOP, BrainPOP Jr., and BrainPOP Español

**W**illard I.B. is now the proud owner of a 12 month license for the use of BrainPOP! Those of you who are not familiar with this online program may be asking yourself, what is BrainPOP? Well, BrainPOP is an online, animation-based learning resource that can be used in school, on home computers, or on the go. It features academic content that is engaging and aligned with California's curriculum standards. With fully integrated learning units, BrainPOP encourages further exploration and inquiry. English language arts, math science, social studies, visual and performing arts, health and engineering are brought to life through short, animated movies and related interactive quizzes.

Teachers can use it in a classroom to introduce new concepts, to reinforce concepts and skills previously taught, and/or for review. Students may access it at home and use it to explore content not covered in class or to review content taught at school.

This award-winning program includes BrainPOP, designed for grades 3 and higher, BrainPOP, Jr., for grades K-3, and BrainPOP Español for Spanish speakers and learners. The website is accessible from any computer at [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com) and [www.brainpopjr.com](http://www.brainpopjr.com).

**Try it tonight!** The username and password are inserted in the newsletter.



oughout a  
time), with  
separate