



Willard Magnet Elementary

An International Baccalaureate School

Monthly Newsletter



“Committed to Success”

Dr. Debra J. DeBose
Principal

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<http://willard.pasadenausd.org>

January 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- Message from the Principal
- Willard School Compact
- PTA Corner
- Willard Annual Fund Update
- Birthday Book Club
- New Pre-K/Kinder Complex Approved by PUSD Facilities Subcommittee

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From the Principal’s Desk

Greetings:

The New Year brings expectations for a new beginning and the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to leading a purposeful life. Notwithstanding the fiscal and political challenges facing our local and global communities, this is the time

to recommit ourselves to the education of our children, upon whom rests the future of our planet.

Please know that I appreciate all that you do to support Willard School’s quest for academic and behavioral excellence.

I hope that this year gives us reasons for celebrating world peace, prosperity and good health in our homes, community and across the planet.

I wish you the best in 2011!

Willard School Compact:

Everyone Has a Part to Play in the Pursuit of Academic Excellence

This month, the School Site Council will consider and approve a school compact. A draft of the compact will be posted on the school’s website prior to the School Site Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 26th. Your comments and suggestions on the draft will be considered at the council meeting.

Title I requires that all schools receiving Title I funds to jointly develop with and distribute to parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

Willard’s proposed plan describes how the school and parents will develop a partnership to help children reach proficiency on the California content

standards. The school-parent compact describes must include the following items, in addition to items added by parents:

- The school’s responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction.
- The parents’ responsibility to support their children’s learning.
- The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at least, annual conferences, reports on student progress, access to staff, and opportunities to volunteer and participate in and observe the educational program.

The Willard School Compact will be sent home with the report cards at

the end of the month. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to discuss the compact with their children at the same time that that the report is reviewed and discussed. It is critical for students to understand the important role that they play in their education.

The compact is meant to be signed by the student, parent, teacher and principal. The signed compact should be returned to the school by February 4th. A copy of the signed document will be given to you and your child for future reference.





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.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

BERLITZ MANDARIN CHINESE After School Class. It's not too late to enroll! Berlitz will offer Mandarin classes for the first time at Willard, if there are at least 8 students enrolled. The 15-week program will start this month, and classes will cost \$9 a class. Your child will still be able to participate in other after school programs as well as the Berlitz class. If you are interested in this exciting new program, contact Gina Parola-Meyers at ginapm@sbcglobal.net, or (626) 796-9225.

PTA-sponsored **INTERNATIONAL NEW YEAR - A Celebration of IB: Date to be announced soon.** Join us for a New Year celebration IB style. Experience the international flavor at Willard through a series of student performances. Check your kids' backpacks for a flyer with all the details.

PARENT WORKDAY: Thursday, January 27, 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 or 626 396 5690 ext. 58026.

COFFEE with the PRINCIPAL: Friday, January 28, 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.
IN WITH THE NEW: A new year often brings in new stuff, and we have just the right event for you to "out the old." Come to Willard's **E-Waste Collection** event on **Saturday, January 29, 2011** and get rid of all your old electronic stuff. The event will run from 8:00am-Noon; just drive up to the parking lot of the school and our friendly helpers will take your e-waste. You'll be rid of all that junk and feel good about it. Questions? Jackie DiGiovanni (jdigiovanni@sbcglobal.net or 626 -616-8779).

WILLARD BEAUTIFICATION DAY: Saturday, January 29, 8:00-Noon. After you drop off your e-waste items, stick around and join Willard teachers, staff and students to help beautify our campus. We will be planting, painting and cleaning up. Donate your time, experience and/or supplies! Questions: Contact Jackie DiGiovanni (626-616-8779 or jdigiovanni@sbcglobal.net).

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT!

Mark Your Calendars: SSC and Advisory Meetings in January

African-American Parent Council
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
School Library

School Site Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 26, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
School Library

English Language Development Council
Thursday, January 27, 2011
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
School Auditorium

Open Enrollment 2010-2011

General Open Enrollment begins on January 24 and 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.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE WILLARD ANNUAL FUND



Please support the Willard Annual Fund! The Annual Fund raises money that goes directly to **Willard Elementary** to retain important teaching and resource staff that make Willard an outstanding elementary – important staff like our IB Coordinator so we can maintain our IB program. You can make a contribution via a check made out to Willard Annual Fund or by supporting the many fund raising events throughout the year.

Last year PUSD experienced a \$25 million budget cut due to an 18% decrease in funding. The cut caused the elimination of many teaching and resource positions. The Annual Fund empowers the Willard community to raise funds to retain teaching and resource positions that directly and positively impact our children’s education at Willard.

Please reach out to your family, neighbors and friends and ask them to support the Willard Annual Fund. Due to the state budget cuts, we are again at risk of losing our IB program and other valuable resources next year if we are unable to raise enough funds.

We have now raised **\$11,513**. We have a goal of **\$100,000**.

The Annual Fund Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of every month in the staff lounge at 6:30 pm. We would love to have you join us. Any additional questions? Email us at Willardannalfund@yahoo.com

Annual Fund Fast Facts

Q: Where does the money go that is raised for Willard Annual Fund?

A: It goes directly to funding teaching resources at Willard Elementary that would have otherwise been lost due to the California state budget cuts.

Q: What important teaching resource positions were retained for this school year?

A. A full-time CRT, Library Coordinator, IB Coordinator, World Language Teacher and Full-time Technology Specialist positions were all partially funded by Willard Annual Fund and retained. One or more of these positions would have been otherwise lost due to State budget cuts.

Q: Who decides how funds will be allocated?

A: The School Site Council, made up of the principal, teachers and parents, decide what resources the funds will support. Donors can also indicate if they have a specific program that they would like their donation to support.

Q: How much money was raised last year?

A: \$64,000

Thank You to Our Honor Roll of Donors

We would love to see this honor roll grow to 100 families! Help us reach our goal.

New Individual/Family Donors

James and Debra DeBose
Jill and Paul Garnett
Matt and Corrine Parker
Max and Libby Shiner
Fon Wong & Debra Holmes Wong

New Corporate Donors

A big gold star goes out to **City National Bank** for its donation of \$250 as an employee volunteer grant.

Corporate Matching and Volunteer Grants

Time Warner (Warner Bros)

Individual/Family Donors

Anonymous (3)
Erick and Alejandra Aguilar
Bank Family
Guy & Galith Baruch
Chuan Chen
Marilyn Gamboa
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.
Rene & Regina Parola
Philip & Rosa Shiner
Leslie & Fabio Tesei
Hua Wang
Susan M. Yang
Billy Yin

December Rummage Sale Raises \$2,200

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the vendors, families, teachers, students and staff who supported the December 4th Rummage Sale!

Birthday Book Club Donations Received in December

Thanks for your continued support 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 December:

**Aidan Arellano
Jose Anthony Damian
Angelica Garcia**

**Kimberly Hernandez
Nadia Marie Ramirez
Emma Shiner
Fiona Small
May Taybi
Kristina Yin**





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An International Baccalaureate School

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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 ELEMENTARY
NEW PRE-K / KINDER COMPLEX



**Plans for New Kinder Complex
Approved by PUSD Board**

On December 7, 2010 the PUSD Facilities Subcommittee approved the preliminary plans for the Willard Elementary Pre-K/Kinder Complex. The drawing (left), produced by Carmichael-Kemp Architects, shows a completely reconfigured kindergarten yard and five new classrooms (one pre-kindergarten and four kindergarten). Both indoor and outdoor spaces will be designed and used for student learning and play activities.

The new classrooms will feature state of the art design and functionality for standards –based instruction, as well as experiential learning and student-initiated play. The outdoor spaces will include turf and paved areas, an art wall, playhouses, a water wall, tricycle path, garden space, a climbing wall, play structure and swings.

This building project, which is scheduled to begin in February 2012, will be completed within a year and paid for with voter approved Measure TT funds. (Note: We are so fortunate that Measure TT passed in 2009 so PUSD can continue to upgrade its campuses; however that money cannot be allocated toward making up for the State budget cuts that impact our teaching staff.)

Willard’s kindergarten teachers are pleased that their input was solicited and incorporated in the design of the new complex.