



Willard Magnet Elementary

An International Baccalaureate School

Monthly Newsletter



“Committed to Success”

Dr. Debra J. DeBose
Principal

301 S. Madre Street, Pasadena, CA 91107
<http://willard.pasadenausd.org>

March 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- Message from the Principal
- How You Can Help Your Child succeed in ELA
- PTA Corner
- Willard Annual Fund Update
- Birthday Book Club
- 2nd Quarter Assessment Results

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From the Principal’s Desk

Greetings:

By now, you have heard the news that PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz has announced his decision to resign his position, effective August 2, 2011. I was shocked and saddened to hear the news, but I share his optimism about the future of

our school district. Under his leadership, student achievement has made significant gains and initiatives that will produce breakthrough results for our students: the PUSD strategic plan, Linked Learning, drop-out reduction, and the

PUSD accountability system, are in place.

As the PUSD Board begins its search for a new superintendent, the Willard staff will remain focused on the success of its students and the growth of the I.B. programme.

How you Can Help Your Child Succeed in English Language Arts

As children progress from kindergarten through grade three, there are many things that can be done at home to reinforce and extend their language skills. Try some of the following activities with your child. You do not need special training or expensive materials. Just include these activities in the things you already do together every day. Make these activities part of the warm, positive relationship you are continuing to build with your child.

Kindergarten 1st Grade:

- Talk often to your child to build listening and speaking skills.
- Show your child how books and print work.
- Focus your child’s attention on the sounds of spoken lan-

guage. For example, sing or say nursery rhymes and songs; play word games; and identify, when riding in the car, the names of things that start with a certain letter.

- Have your child identify and name the letters of the alphabet.
- Support and reinforce what your child is learning in school about the relationship between letters and sounds.
- Encourage your child to spell and write.
- Help your child build vocabulary, knowledge of the world and comprehension.

2nd & 3rd Grades

- Use reading opportunities to help your child develop fluency.

- Find opportunities for your child to spell and write.
- Find opportunities to help your child develop vocabulary, knowledge of the world and comprehension.

4th and 5th Grades

- Create opportunities to support your child in reading. For example, encourage your child to read aloud with you and read to and with your child regularly.
- Create opportunities to support your child in writing, listening, and speaking. For example, encourage your child to keep a diary or a vacation journal and encourage your child to engage in creative writing.



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.

THANK YOU! to all Willard families who came out for the Daphne's Greek Café restaurant 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.

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** will run from Monday, March 14 through Friday, March 18. Our librarian, Ms. Peterson, and the PTA could really use your help to organize this fun event for Willard students and families. To find out how you can help please contact PTA Membership Chair Sara Dachel at sara.dachel@HRTechnologies.com or 626.644.8288.

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

NEW WILLARD IB T-shirts (with new IB logo) and other uniform items will be on sale in the school lobby by the main office on Thursday and Friday, March 3-4, from 2:00-6:00pm. Modella donates a percentage of all sales to the Willard PTA. Stop by to make a purchase and help the PTA! Can't stop by – then visit Modella online at Modellauniforms.com. Online sales help the PTA, too! Be sure to check out the new Willard IB T-shirts!

READ ACROSS AMERICA with DR. SEUSS: Friday, March 4, 8:00-10:30am. Plan to take some time on this morning to share your love of reading! Volunteer to read a Dr. Seuss story to your child's classroom and to other classrooms too if you have the time. Bring your favorite Dr. Seuss story or choose from selected stories in our library. Join us in the library any time between 8:00 and 10:30 for a continental breakfast, to sign-in, and to receive your story assignment. Questions? Contact Patty Frontino at 626.396.5690, ext. 58026.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: Monday, March 14 thru Friday, March 17. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase some fantastic titles for your growing reader(s). Prices are great, the selection is voluminous, and in return for your purchase Scholastic gives a percentage to Willard and helps to stock our library with current titles. Encourage your young reader(s) to read, read, read – stop by the Book Fair and buy some books.

Questions? Sara Dachel at sara.dachel@HRTechnologies.com or 626.644.8288.

PTA ASSOCIATION MEETING: Monday, March 21, 6:30 in Library.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. All are welcome. Connect with school faculty, staff and other parents; have a voice in ongoing projects and new ideas; have fun and be involved in positive change. Join us!

SPRING IB CELEBRATION: Friday, March 25, 6:30-8:30pm. Join us for a spring celebration IB style. Experience the international flavor at Willard

PTA Corner by Christine O'Brien

through a series of student performances. Check your kids' backpacks for a flyer with all the details. Don't miss this fun event that will celebrate the pride and success of Willard's International Baccalaureate program. Food and Childcare will be provided.

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

PARENT WORK-DAY: Thursday, March 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 or 626 396 5690 ext. 58026.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELAC) Meeting: Thursday, March 24, 11:00-1:00pm. The role of the ELAC is to advise the principal and School Site Council on programs and services for English learners. All parents are welcome to attend. Questions? Elena Camarillo: ecamarillo64@pusd.us or 626 396 5690 ext. 58027.

AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT COUNCIL Meeting: Thursday, March 24, 6:00 pm in the Library



NEWS FROM THE WILLARD ANNUAL FUND

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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

New Individual/Family

Donors:

Cynthia Rosedale

Individual/Family Donors

Anonymous (3)

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

Foundations:

Kebok Foundation

Corporate Matching and Volunteer Grants

City National Bank

Time Warner (Warner Bros)

THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE

\$150 Gift Card to Best Buy

February Birthday Book Club Donations

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 February:

Ian Anderson
Diego Fitipaldi
Asael Gil
Diego Christian Gonzalez
Alyna Guangga
Sebastian Hernandez
April Ho
Steven Kane
Angelina Mason
Evan Metz

Kevin Ortiz
Amber Unique Rivera
Nickolas Rodriguez
Jaqueline Ruiz Santiago
Joseph Sitzman
Jennifer Yu
Adrian Zepeda





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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>

REPORT OF RESULTS OF QUARTER TWO ASSESSMENTS

In an effort to keep you abreast of students' progress in English Language Arts ("ELA") and Mathematics, we like to share the results of our quarterly assessments.

We have had the opportunity to analyze students' performance for Quarter 2, by individuals, by class, by grade level, and by standards.

The results of the assessment are used to guide teachers in their planning of future lessons or interventions. After reviewing the assessments, a teacher may decide to reteach a concept to the whole class or to target specific students for small group lessons or intervention.

The grade level results, are expressed in terms of "advanced," "proficient,"

"basic," "below basic" and "far below basic." Advanced and proficient indicate a mastery of the skills assessed. Basic and below indicate a lack of mastery of the assessed skills.

English Language Arts:

1st Grade:

Advanced: 51%
Proficient: 25%
Basic: 20%
Below Basic: 4%
Far Below Basic: 0%

2nd Grade:

Advanced: 49%
Proficient: 37%
Basic: 10%
Below Basic: 4%
Far Below Basic: 0%

3rd Grade:

Advanced: 41%
Proficient: 42%
Basic: 11%
Below Basic: 5%
Far Below Basic: 1%

4th Grade:

Advanced: 46%
Proficient: 53%
Basic: 1%
Below Basic: 0%
Far Below Basic: 0%

5th Grade:

Advanced: 51%
Proficient: 35%
Basic: 12%
Below Basic: 2%
Far Below Basic: 0%

Mathematics:

1st Grade:

Advanced: 44%
Proficient: 31%
Basic: 21%
Below Basic: 4%
Far Below Basic: 0%

2nd Grade:

Advanced: 64%
Proficient: 24%
Basic: 9%
Below Basic: 3%
Far Below Basic: 0%

3rd Grade:

Advanced: 47%
Proficient: 40%
Basic: 8%
Below Basic: 4%
Far Below Basic: 0%

4th Grade:

Advanced: 59%
Proficient: 28%
Basic: 11%
Below Basic: 2%
Far Below Basic: 0%

5th Grade:

Advanced: 48%
Proficient: 34%
Basic: 13%
Below Basic: 4%
Far Below Basic: 1%

The results indicate that the vast majority of Willard students are mastering the grade level content standards. Interventions are in place for those students who are performing below basic.