



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

October 2010

Special Points of Interest:

- Message from the Principal
- Willard's 2010 API is 863
- PTA Corner
- 2010–2011 Annual Fund Kickoff
- Parent Survey Results
- Students in Action
- Healthful Snacks
- Making the Home a Good Place for Student Learning

Inside this Issue:

PTA Corner	2
Annual Fund Launch	2
2010 Client Survey Results	3
Willard Students in Action	3
Healthful Snack Ideas	3
How to Contact Us	4
Helpful Hints for Parents	4

From the Principal's Desk

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to welcome new and returning families to the 2010–2011 school year at Willard School.

This year began with an orientation picnic for Kindergarten families in late August and an ice cream social for all families on the day before the first day of school. Both events were well attended and reflected the diversity and camaraderie that make Willard a vibrant learning community. My thanks to parents, **Liz Jackson** and **Deborah Wong**, for chairing the picnic and ice cream social, respectively.

The opening day of school was excellent. Our teachers returned to work early to set up their classrooms and plan learning activities. They were ready to begin instruction on the first day. Students returning to school after a long summer vacation arrived at school

on time, in uniform, and prepared to learn. Thanks to the work of our clerical, custodial, and resource staffs, our classrooms had the furnishings, materials and supplies needed for teachers and students to begin their work.

Over the summer, Measure TT infrastructure improvements were completed, including a power and data upgrade in the main building and fire alarm upgrade throughout the school.

The year is off to a great start, but I will not ignore the elephant in the room — the impact of budget cuts on Willard School. As you know, school districts across the state, including PUSD, are impacted by California's failure to adequately fund public education. At Willard, this has resulted in slightly larger class sizes, the loss of three classroom teachers, a reduction in the hours of the librarian, the

loss of the P.E. aide and reduced funding allocation for the I.B. program.

The impact of the budget cuts would have been more severe if parents had not taken the initiative to create and build the Willard Annual Fund, which allowed Willard to keep its librarian (part-time) and partially fund the positions of I.B. Coordinator and I.B. Spanish Teacher, among other things. The work of the Annual Fund Chair, **Chris McDonald**, and his excellent committee and corps of volunteers were essential to the preservation of Willard's valued instructional programs.

I want to assure you that the staff remains committed to the Willard mission and the success of all children.

Willard Shows Modest API Growth

Willard continued to show improvement in math and science, posting modest gains according to the 2010 Accountability Progress Report (APR) released by the California Department of Education. Willard's overall score on the Academic Performance Index (API) increased by three points from the 2009 base, bringing the school's overall score to **863**.

The API is a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000 with a state-wide target of 800. The APR details public school's progress in two accountability systems: California's API, and the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The State's accountability system focuses on improvement using the results of standardized tests, while the federal system's targets increase each year,

and focus on student proficiency rates.

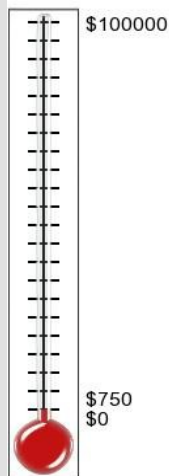
Willard met the Schoolwide AYP in English Language Arts and Math. The data show that meeting the ELA proficiency targets for Hispanic, Socio-Economically Disadvantaged, and English Learner students will require more focus this year. Staff is planning interventions to address this challenge.



**Willard PTA:
making a difference
for all Students!**

**Stay
Connected -
receive weekly
email updates!**

If you haven't already, sign up for the Willard PTA email loop to receive info on upcoming PTA events, volunteer needs and school activities. Just email ecamarillo64@pusd.us and your name will be added to the list.



Willard Annual Fund Committee launches 2010–2011 annual fund drive

PTA Corner by Christine O'Brien

Welcome Willard IB family and friends to the 2010-11 school year! **Thank you!** to so many of you who were able to attend the International Potluck Dinner – it was wonderful to see so many new and familiar faces connecting and enjoying our potluck together.

Thank you! to all Willard families who came out for the Chuck E Cheese 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 IB!

October highlights and upcoming school events:

- The **Willard IB PTA Membership Drive** is in full swing! It's **time to renew** your PTA membership **or sign up for the first time**. Why join the PTA? Research shows that the more involved you are with your child's school and/or classroom, the better your child will do academically. Join Willard PTA and help your child's class win a **Party!** Every class with 100% participation will receive a **Pizza Party**, and the class with the most PTA membership applications will receive an **Ice Pop Party**.

Join the PTA!

Complete and return the "Family Information for Willard PTA" form today.

- Do you want to be more involved in your child's education? Do you want to get to know your child's teacher better? Become a **Room Representative** today! Fill out the "Willard Room Representative" form and return it to the school office. Or contact Room Rep Coordinator Judy Balian directly kviat_balian@hotmail.com or (626) 485-2202.
- **Translators needed!** Can you translate English to Spanish? The PTA needs your help. Please contact Christine O'Brien chris-syob@mac.com or 213 952 2821 if you can help.
- **After-school French and Spanish Classes with Berlitz:** Tuesdays, 2:20–3:20pm. Classes start Tuesday, October 12. Enrollment forms were sent home in kids' backpacks. Enroll now if you are interested!

Upcoming school events to mark on your calendar:

Back-to-School Night: Thursday, October 7, 6:00-7:30pm

This is an important event – it's the night to "meet &

greet" your child's teacher. You will find out what to expect for the upcoming school year, learn about the daily routine for the classroom and the teacher's experience.

Parent Workday: Thursday, October 28, 8:00-11:00am in Auditorium

Parents help prepare materials for classroom instruction.

Halloween Parade: Friday, October 29

To celebrate Halloween, Willard's kids dress-up in their favorite Halloween costumes and parade around the campus.

Movie Night: Friday, November 5, 6:30.

Come out and enjoy a free movie under the stars on the Willard campus! Movie night is a fun, social event. Bring your picnic blankets, lawn chairs and your appetite. Hot dogs, popcorn and beverages will be sold at a great price, and the kids have a blast.

Willard Annual Fund Drive Launched

"The single greatest impact to Willard Elementary this past year was not the district budget cuts, but the effort, resolve and commitment shown by the Willard community of parents, teachers and administrative staff in the face of those cuts." With these eloquent words, the Willard Annual Fund (WAF) Giving Campaign Committee captured the spirit of last year's

campaign and launched the second annual fund campaign.

For this second year of the WAF Campaign, the goal is to raise \$100,000 and to increase the percentage of Willard families giving to 100%.

The WAF is chaired by parent, **Karla Romero**. Mrs. Romero and her committee will

focus their time and energy on direct giving and other fundraising activities.

Donations of any size are accepted and appreciated. Last year, individual donations ranged from \$5.00 to \$5,000.

The Annual Fund letter will be mailed to families in October.

Willard's Client Survey 2010 Results

Last spring, 419 Willard parents responded to the district-wide client survey. The survey attempted to assess parent satisfaction, by school site, in the following categories: proficiency for all students; learning environment; and parent engagement..

A target of 80% approval was set by the District as the survey benchmark threshold. Approval meant that at least 80% of those responding marked the survey statement "Strongly Agree" or "Agree."

The results, which are shown below, suggest a high level of parent satisfaction with Willard School. (The number after each statement corresponds to the percentage of responders who "strongly agree" or "agree" with the statement..)

Q4: The school has high expectations for all students. **98%**

Q5: The school helps students who are working below grade level. **96%**

Q6: Academic goals and State Standards for student learning are clearly communicated to everyone. **96%**

Q7: Grading policies at this school are fair and consistent. **98%**

Q8: Homework supports classroom learning. **97%**

Q9: Students have regular access to school computers to do class assignments. **88%**

Q10: Students may use the school library before, during and after school. **85%**

Q11: I am satisfied with the quality of teaching at this school. **96%**

Q12: Students new to English receive specialized instruction that helps them reach grade-level standards especially in Math and Language Arts. **97%**

Q13: All students in the school have equal access to the curriculum. **97%**

Q14: The school staff listens to the views and opinions of students. **95%**

Q15: The school has clear rules for student behavior that are enforced fairly. **97%**

Q16: School buildings and grounds are well maintained. **94%**

Q17: Students are safe in all areas of this school. **93%**

Q18: The school is drug and alcohol free. **95%**

Q19: Students resolve conflicts in a positive manner. **95%**

Q20: The school encourages and monitors student attendance. **99%**

Q21: The school keeps parents well informed of their child's progress. **97%**

Q22: The school values the ideas of parents. **96%**

Q23: The school helps parents to improve their child's progress. **97%**

Q24: Families are treated in a professional, friendly manner when contacting this school. **97%**

Q25: Families know how to contact the school staff by phone or email. **97%**

Q26: Families receive a response promptly from school staff. **95%**

Q27: I like this school. **98%**

Students turn Lemons into Cash for Willard Annual Fund

The lemonade stand continues as a summer ritual for young children — its an opportunity to have fun and earn extra spending money.

On a hot summer day, **Miles and Cole Jackson** and **Michael and Ben Karish** set up a neighborhood lemonade stand. The Karish kids made homemade lemonade with the lemons from their trees and the Jackson siblings made Aguas Frescas de Sandia y Melon. The kids had great fun



and raised over \$16 in about two hours.

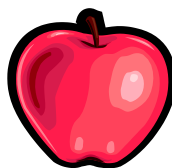
As the children were closing the stand, they decided to donate the proceeds to the Willard Annual Fund.

Miles, Cole, Michael and Ben , in this simple act of generosity exhibited the I.B attitudes of enthusiasm, creativity, independence and cooperation.

Parents are Encouraged to Send Healthful Snacks to School

Many of our children bring snacks to school and eat them during the morning recess or after-school. Snacks can be a healthful part of a child's daily diet, because they potentially provide the extra nutrients kids require to play, learn and grow.

To ensure that your child gets the required nutrients in his/her snacks,



Healthful snacks are an important part of a child's diet.

minimize the empty calorie foods (chips, sugary cookies, etc), and instead, pack snacks that are healthful, including fruits, raw vegetables, whole grain cereals and breads.

If your child learns to make healthy snack choices now, he/she will probably make healthy snack choices as an adult.



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Committed to Success

International Baccalaureate Attitudes and Profile

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>

Parents Ask: How Can I Make Our Home A Good Place For My Child To Learn?

As parents, you want your children to be successful in school because you believe that successful students are more likely to be successful adults.

At Willard, the instructional staff wants your child to experience academic success and acquire the profile and attitudes of global citizenship. Our frameworks for academic success are the California academic standards and the International Baccalaureate curriculum.

The Willard staff is committed to the success of your child. Our best work is done in partnership with you. Accordingly, we encourage you to do the following to help us educate your child:

- Have high expectations for your child's learning and behavior, both at home and at school, and communicate your expectations frequently.
- Praise and encourage your child to do his/her best in school.
- Emphasize effort and achievement, and be a role model for getting work done before play.
- Establish rules and routines in the home (including bed times), with appropriate consequences for not following the rules.
- Monitor television viewing and internet browsing.
- Limit after-school jobs and activities. School work has to be given a high priority.
- Encourage your child to share information about school, and be responsive and show interest in the shared information.
- Read to your young child or have him/her read to you every night. Encourage older children to read by taking an interest in what they are reading and share your thoughts about books and articles that you have read.