



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

November 2010

Special Points of Interest:

- Message from the Principal
- Family Science Nights in November
- PTA Corner
- Willard Annual Fund Update
- Birthday Book Club
- Matching Corporate Grants Available
- Pertussis Immunization Requirements
- School Site Council Approves Plan for Improvement

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From the Principal’s Desk

Greetings:

November is Parent-Teacher Conference month throughout the District. The purpose of the conference is to discuss your child’s progress and to build the partnership between the parent and teacher. The success of this partnership will have a direct positive impact on your child’s academic achievement.

Willard teachers have already begun meeting with parents to discuss the academic and social progress of their students. I encourage you to maximize the benefits of this conference by doing the following:

- Prepare for the conference by making a brief list of things about your child’s home life that you want to share with the teacher; any ques-

tions or concerns you may have regarding your child’s academic performance or behavior; and any questions you may have about how best to help your child to succeed in school.

- Arrive on time for the conference.
- Follow through on any action plan that you and the teacher develop together. If necessary, schedule a follow-up conference to check on your child’s progress.

In an effort to raise the level of interest and student achievement in science, we are hosting a series of three *Family Science Nights* in November. The evening will be filled with hands-on science activities for students from Kindergarten

through fifth grade and heighten their interest in the sciences.

Veterans Day, is also observed this month. As our children celebrate this mid-week holiday, it is important to share the significance of this holiday and to acknowledge the sacrifice made by the men and women who, throughout the history of our country, have taken on the responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of the USA.

In closing, on this Thanksgiving Day, I wish you and your family the joys of this special holiday — family time and the opportunity to pause and give thanks for gifts and blessings, both great and small. **HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!**

Family Science Nights at Willard School

Willard School is proud to partner with Iridescent Learning to present a series of three science nights for Willard families.

On Tuesday, November 2, 9 and 16, enjoy dinner and family science. The leaders for these nights will be Caltech graduate students, post-doctoral students, and JPL engineers.

The three topics they will

teach, one on each of the three nights, are density, buoyancy, and viscosity, all tied to the big idea of how animals move in a fluid. These topics are science standards for several grades.

Iridescent is a science-education nonprofit that helps engineers, scientists and high-tech professionals bring cutting edge science, technology and engineering to school-aged children and their fami-

lies. Three unique aspects are: 1) the rigorous training mentors undergo to communicate research and advancements to the public; 2) the emphasis on parents learning science with their children; 3) the mutual learning model in which both the students and mentors benefit from “doing science” together.

Dinner and child care will be provided for all attendees.

PTA Corner by Christine O'Brien



THANK YOU! to all Willard families who came out for the Islands 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! And thank you to everyone who joined our Willard Green Team and helped out on Beautification Day! Our campus gardens are ripe for growing because of you!

STAY CONNECTED - receive weekly email updates! If you haven't already, please sign up for the Willard PTA email loop to receive information on upcoming school events, school news and volunteer needs. Just email ecamarillo64@pusd.us and your name will be added to the list.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:
The **Willard IB PTA Membership Drive** is winding down! If you have not renewed your PTA membership or joined for the first time, please do so today. Join or renew and help your child's classroom win a **Party!** Every class with

100% participation gets a **Pizza Party**, and the class with the most PTA membership applications gets an **Ice Pop Party**. **Join the PTA!** Fill out the "Family Information for Willard PTA" form and return it to your child's teacher. Can't find the form? Stop by the office and ask for one.

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.

SHOP FRESH & EASY and earn money for Willard now through December 31st! Please support Willard by shopping at Fresh & Easy grocery stores. There is a store location on S. Lake at California, but you (and your family, friends and neighbors) can shop at **any** Fresh & Easy store and earn money for Willard. Willard receives \$1.00 for every \$20.00 spent at Fresh & Easy. So, spend \$20 and Willard receives \$1, spend \$40 and Willard gets \$2, and so on. Just save your receipts and drop them in the Fresh & Easy box outside the school's main office. It's that simple! And please

encourage your friends and family to shop Fresh & Easy - you can collect their receipts too and drop them in the box.

SHAKEY'S PIZZA Restaurant Night Fundraiser: Wednesday, November 17. Plan to dine-in or take-out from Shakey's. Look for details on the flyer that will go home in kids' backpacks.

Willard Annual Fund RUMMAGE & PLANT SALE: Saturday, November 20, 9:00-2:00pm. Come shop and sell with us at the Willard IB Rummage & Plant Sale! You can sell food and/or new or used items, or just come out to buy, buy, buy! To rent space to sell items, complete the Vendor Information Form (sent home in backpacks / extra copies in the front office) and return it to the front office. Questions? Elena Camarillo: ecamarillo64@pusd.us or 626 396 5690 ext. 58027.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Look for a flyer to come home in mid-November asking for donations of canned and non-perishable food items for our Thanksgiving Baskets. Thanksgiving Baskets are filled and given to Willard families in need during the holidays. Questions? Patty Frontino: pfrontino@pusd.us or 626 396 5690 ext. 58026.

ALERT: 2011 Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Immunization Requirements

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California during 2010. The California Department of Public Health ("CDPH") recommends that all Californians 10 years and older receive a booster shot against pertussis (also known as "Tdap").

If your child 10 years and older has not yet received the 'Tdap' pertussis

booster shot, please contact your doctor or health department.

Getting a booster shot now will protect your child against the ongoing threat of pertussis and meet a new school requirement that begins in the 2011-12 school year (California law - Assembly Bill 354).

Adults are also advised to get a per-

tussis booster shot, if they haven't already, to protect themselves, their families, and their students.

For more information, please visit the CDPH website at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx>



Willard Annual Fund Honor Roll of Donors:

The Willard Annual Fund Committee extends its thanks to the donors and the participants in the fundraising activity listed below. For questions, please contact the committee at willardannualfund@yahoo.com. Join the Annual Fund Committee. The committee meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30. Every Penny counts!

The Willard Annual Fund campaign was launched in September 2010. To date, **\$1,860** in donations and proceeds from fundraising activities have been received. **The goal is \$100,000.**

Individual Donors:

- Anonymous
- Bank Family
- Guy & Galith Baruch
- Chuan Chen
- Mr. & Mrs. Brian Golfarb
- Cole Jackson
- Miles Jackson
- Sherry & Geoffrey Johansing
- Benjamin Karish
- Michael Karish

- Rebecca Little
- Karen Montgomery
- Andrea P. Nelson
- Susan M. Yang
- Billy Yin

Fundraising Activities Scheduled for November:

November 12:
Raffle of \$150 Disney Gift Certificate

Completed Fundraising Activities:

October 8, 2010 Raffle

November 20:
Rummage Sale @ Willard

Willard Parent Taps In To Corporate Matching and Volunteer Grants

Does your employer offer matching or volunteer grants to support education based non-profits? Just ask – they might do it! It’s one of the easiest ways to help our school. Willard parent Jennifer O’Rafferty (mom of 1st grader Colin) works for Warner Bros. The parent company, Time Warner, offers employees matching grants for contributions to arts and educational non-profit organizations – she’s able to **double** her contribution to the Willard Annual Fund. Additionally, Time Warner offers a yearly \$500 volunteer grant. When an employee volunteers 30 or more hours, they give



the organization \$500. So Willard gets paid for Jennifer’s time spent volunteering in the classroom.

”This is essentially “free money” for our school. When I ask other parents I work with if they’ve taken advantage of these great employee benefits, so many didn’t even know it’s available – I always encourage them to go get that money!” says Jennifer. Do you have a corporate matching fund story you can share? Please let the Annual Fund Committee know – they’d love to hear about it! For any corporate matching grants that we receive this year will give special recognition to that company in our newsletter. Please email the Willard Annual Fund Committee at WillardAnnualFund@yahoo.com .

Birthday Book Club Enhances Willard Library Collection by Karen Petersen, Librarian

Look for a letter from the Willard Library inviting your child to join our Birthday Book Club on the month of his/her birthday. This is your opportunity to give a new book to the Library in honor of your child’s special day! If you would like to participate you can send in your donation after receiving the letter. There will be a selection of new pre-purchased library books for your child to choose from. We will place a book plate with your child’s name inside the book and he/she will be the first to check it out.

This is a fun way to help our school library in these days of budget cuts and it will give your child a sense of pride and ownership in our library. Thank you for your support!

August Birthday Book Club Members: Milly Hernandez, Alexander Hernandez, Mia Meyers, Jacob Lamas-Shine, John Lamas-Shine and Isabella Tesesi.

September Birthday Book Club Members: Coral Baruch, Grace Hinojosa, Cole Jackson, Kayleigh Johansing, Jamie Lopez, Elsz Luquin, Nancy Mendoza, Johnny Miranda, Riley O’Brien, Maia Rosenbaum and Augustine Martin Zuniga, II.

October Birthday Book Club Members: Giselle Esparanza, Adelaide Esslen, Anthony Hovsepain, Lizette Noyola, Giovana Orozco, Alan Sizman, Edward Smith and Alexandria Zieger.



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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>

WILLARD SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL APPROVES PLAN IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENT PERFORMANCE for SCHOOL PLAN

On October 27, 2010, the Willard School Site Council met, reviewed student achievement data from 2009—2010, considered and modified the recommendations of the faculty and administration, and then approved the “Plan for Improvements in Student Performance, which is the cornerstone of the Single Plan for Student Achievement (“SPSA”).

The approved SPSA sets goals in six areas:

English Language Arts: The percent of students who score at proficient or advanced levels in English Language Arts (“ELA”) will increase from 59% to 68%, as measured by the California Standards Test (“CST”) in May 2011.

Mathematics: The percent of students who score at proficient or advanced levels in Math will increase from 78% to 85%, as measured by the

CST in May 2011.

Closing the Gap: The percentage of African-American, Hispanic, socio-economically disadvantaged, English Learners and Special Education students who score at proficient/advanced levels in English Language Arts will increase to 68%, and thereby meet AYP targets in ELA. In Math, the percentage of African-American, Hispanic, socio-economically disadvantaged, English Learners and Special Education students who score at proficient/advanced levels will increase to 85%. Progress in these areas will be measured by the CST in May 2011.

Science: The percent of 5th grade students scoring at proficient or advanced levels will increase from 69% to 75%, as measured by the CST in May 2011.

Parent & Community Involvement: Increase by 50% the number of opportunities each month for parents to be involved at the school.

Safe & Orderly Learning Environment: The number of students referred for incidents of misbehavior will decrease by 10%, as measured by guidance Counselor logs and student suspension data.

The members of the School Site Council are: parents, **Rosina Franco, Jennifer, Larry O’Brien, O’Rafferty, Karla Romero, Juan Urias,** and faculty, **Angelica Valdez, Cory Parker, Dawn Goldenberg, Cathy Novelo, and Linda Wittry.** The Principal is also a member.