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

May 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- Message from the Principal
- STAR Testing: May 2—May 13
- PTA Corner
- Willard Annual Fund Update
- Birthday Book Club
- Dawn Goldenberg, Rotary Teacher of Excellence Award Recipient
- SSC Reduces Staffing

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From the Principal's Desk

Greetings:

The week of May 1 – May 7, is Teacher Appreciation Week -- a week set aside to celebrate and acknowledge the important work of California's teachers. It is appropriate that we honor Willard's teachers for their excellent work and commitment to the success of all children.

Springtime in California schools has become synonymous with the administration of the California Standards Test (CST). STAR/CST will be administered at Willard School from May 3 - May 13. To ensure that your child is physically and mentally prepared for the test, please read and follow the tips below.

Looking for something to do with your youngsters this summer? The PEF Summer Enrichment Program will be held at Willard School. For more information regarding this exciting program, please contact Willard School or the PEF Office. Scholarships are still available. Also, the Pasadena LEARNS program will be on the Willard campus this summer.

To all the mothers in the Willard Family, I wish you a Happy Mother's Day.

S.T.A.R. Testing: May 2—May 13

The California Standardized Testing and Reporting (S.TA.R.) testing window opens on May 2 and will close on May 13. During this two week period, students will be tested on grade level standards in the areas of Mathematics, English Language Arts and Science.

Under the S.T.A.R. program, students in grades 2 – 5 will take the California Standards Test (CST), which will test their knowledge and mastery of grade level standards. Students and ers have been focused on preparing for this test since the beginning of the school year.

Students and parents should approach the test with confidence, because our teachers have covered, through daily instruction, all of the standards that will be tested on the CST.

To maximize your child's performance on the test, please do these four simple things:

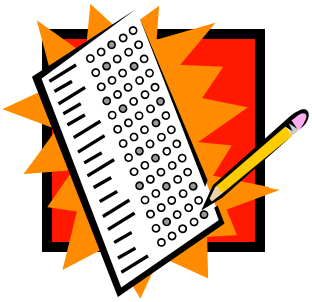
1. Make sure that your child arrives at school on time, every day. School begins at 7:50 a.m.

2. Have your child eat a good breakfast at home or arrive at school in time to have breakfast in the school cafeteria.

3. Make sure your child goes to bed early enough, so that he/she awakens in the morning fully rested.

4. Encourage your child to do his/her best.

Test results will be mailed to families in August.



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.

THANK YOU! to all Willard families who came out for the Domenico's 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. Last month, your participation at Chuck E Cheese netted $471.10 for Willard. Way to go!

THANK YOU! to our wonderful librarian, Mrs. Peterson, and to Lisa Bloom (mom to Sara Bloom, 1st grader with Mrs. Grabis) for organizing and running a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair. Kids and parents alike enjoyed the event, so much so that $3759.34 was made and will go directly to supporting our wonderful library program. Way to go again, Willard families! And a special thank you to all of the Willard parents who volunteered countless hours to staff the fair – it would not have been a success without your support!

MAY HIGHLIGHTS:

PTA ASSOCIATION MEETING: Monday, May 16, 6:30 in Auditorium.
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!

The Willard Annual Fund Committee invites you to the **INAUGURAL SILENT AUCTION, Saturday, May 14, Boys and Girls Club from 6:00-10:00pm**. This will be an evening of dinner, dancing, and fundraising. Tickets are available in the school office. Questions? Patty Frontino at pfrontino@pusd.us or email willardannualfund@yahoo.com.

ISLANDS Restaurant Fundraiser: Bring your appetite to **ISLANDS Restaurant**, on **Wednesday, May 18, all day.** Bring your flyer and join your child's classmates and their families for dinner. Willard will receive 20% of all food purchased. Show your support for Willard – dine in or take out!

MOVIE NIGHT: Friday, May 20, Time TBD. 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 IB SCIENCE FAIR: Tuesday May 24, 5:30-7:00 PM. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Ribbons at each grade level. School-wide Overall Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Winners. Family night of fun and adventure. Showcase of classroom science work. Conduct hands-on experiments at different stations. Vote for your favorite project. Parents and friends of Willard - please contact Linda Wittry at (626) 396-5690 or e-mail lwittry@pusd.us if you can run experiment stations.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (SSC) Meeting: Wednesday, May 25, 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 WORKDAY: Thursday, May 26, 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, May 26, 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.

COFFEE with the PRINCIPAL: Friday, May 27, 8:00am in the Library. Come and enjoy some breakfast treats with Dr. DeBose and chat about all-things-Willard!

TOWNLOOP: PASS IT ON…tell your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers about Townloop, the new website that offers daily deals from local businesses and gives 20% of the proceeds to local schools. That's right, every time you buy a deal from Townloop, they give money to Willard. Just go to the link below to join at no risk, no cost, and with no worries (your email address will not be passed on or sold). And then start spreadin' the word! Pass the link on to all your contacts! Encourage them to sign up. The more folks connected to Townloop through Willard, the more $$ for Willard.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIGN UP!
It's FREE. It's EASY.
Go to http://willard-pta.org/townloop to sign up!
Type in your email address and your zip code.
That's it! You're done.

As a subscriber, you'll receive a daily email with an excellent deal on restaurants you love, places you want to go, and even everyday errands. So spread the word! The more people that join, the more money we raise. If you would like to get more information or be more involved with this cool new way to raise money for our school, please contact Liz Sanchez Jackson at lizjacksonsf@yahoo.com.

IF YOU ARE A BUSINESS OWNER and would like to participate in this program by offering a deal, please contact Larry O'Brien at lobrien@risksol.com or Liz Sanchez Jackson at lizjacksonsf@yahoo.com.

NEWS FROM THE WILLARD ANNUAL FUND

The Willard Annual Fund exists for the sole purpose of retaining important teaching and resource staff that would otherwise be lost due to State budget cuts.

Please keep Willard IB a great school by supporting the Annual Fund.

We need every family's support this year in order to save our valuable International Baccalaureate program.

Our contributions are growing!
As of April 27th, we have raised **$21,307**. Please help us get to at least **$50,000**.

Thank You New Donors – you have made a difference!
Dylan & Autumn Walling
Cesar & Gabriela Rodriguez
Dr. Kathy Onoye
Anoush & Albert Farjo
Fabio Tesei and Leslie Jasperson
William & Janet Wells
Kristina Williams-Lytle
Farahnaz Namvari
Cathryn Bowman

Buy Your Tickets & Bring a Friend – Willard Silent Auction May 14th
The First Annual Willard Spring Dinner, Dancing & Silent Auction event is **Saturday May** 14th at 6:00 pm. The event is taking place conveniently next door at the Boys and Girls Club. Tickets are $25 per person – please purchase now at the front office. Come see and bid on all the amazing baskets that the classes have put together and the great offerings from parents and staff.

Easy $5,000 Fundraising Challenge from Pasadena Educational Foundation
Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF) is offering a dollar for dollar matching grant for up to $5,000. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to increase our Annual Fund by $10,000! PEF is calling this the "Families and Neighbors Supporting Schools" initiative.

All you have to do is note **Willard FANSS Challenge** on your check to Willard Annual Fund and PEF will match the donation! The challenge ends June 10th, so please write your check today. Please ask your neighbors to support this effort too!

You can also donate online at Pasedfoundation.org – look for the FANSS Challenge on the home page – be sure to select Willard as your school.

Corporate and Volunteer Grants:
City National Bank
Time Warner (Warner Bros)

Individual/Family Donors
Anonymous (3)
Erick and Alejandra Aguilar
Bank Family
Guy & Galith Baruch
Lynda & James Callahan
Chuan Chen
James and Debra DeBose
Marilyn Gamboa
Jill and Paul Garnett
Mr & Mrs Brian Golfarb
Kristine & Michael Gonzales
Alan Ho
Vivian Holmes
Kyung-Soo Inn
Cole Jackson
Miles Jackson
Fabio Tesei & Leslie Jasperson
Sherry & Geoff Johansing
Benjamin Karish
Haley and Marc Karish
Michael Karish
Kebok Foundation
Chuan Chen & Yufeng Lin
Jacquelin Lindstrom
Rebecca Little
Oi J. Martel
Chris & Rowena McDonald
Karen Montgomery
Andrea P. Nelson
O'Rafferty Family
Pan Pacific Fiber, Inc.
Matt and Corrine Parker
Rene & Regina Parola
Cynthia Rosedale
Max and Libby Shiner
Philip & Rosa Shiner
Linda Stone
Jacqueline Suzuki
Leslie & Fabio Tesei
Hua Wang
Fon Wong & Debra Holmes Wong
Susan M. Yang
Billy Yin

April 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 April:

Chase Beckett
Karla Delgado
Melissa Gio
Luis S. Gutierrez
Larry Lopez

Itzel Martinez
Natalie Nicole Perez
Max Meyers
Alexa Romero

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Committed to Success

International Baccalaureate Students' Attitudes and Profile

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

Dawn Goldenberg Selected as Recipient of the 2011 Pasadena Rotary Teacher of Excellence Award

On April 28, Dawn Goldenberg was selected as a recipient of the Rotary Club of Pasadena Teacher of Excellence Award. Ms. Goldenberg was selected from among the nominees from 25 eligible schools in PUSD. On May 18, the Rotary Club of Pasadena will honor her together with the four other awardees at a luncheon held at the University Club of Pasadena. Along with the public recognition, Ms. Goldenberg will receive a monetary prize of $1,500 and Willard School, will receive $500, which will be donated to the Willard Annual Fund.

Copy the link below to see Ms. Goldenberg's video:
http://pasadenausd.org/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=225574

The week of May 1 – May 7, is Teacher Appreciation Week -- a week set aside to celebrate and acknowledge the important work of California's teachers. It is appropriate that we honor Willard's teachers for their excellent work and commitment to the success of all children.

We salute Dawn Goldenberg and her Willard School colleagues for their professional excellence!

Decreased Funding Forces School Site Council's Decision to Reduce Staffing

At its ragnalar meeting on April 27, 2011, the Willard School Site Council voted unanimously to cut the Curriculum Resource Teacher and the I.B. Coordinator positions by 50%, thereby eliminating one full time teacher position.

This action was taken after a review of the projected categorical budget allocations for the 2011—2012 school year and a protracted discussion of the needs of the school. The SSC members had to make the tough decision about which positions to fund for 2011—2012, based on a proposed allocation (Title I and EIA-LEP funds) of $308,629 and possible carryovers (Title I, EIA-LEP and WAF) in the amount of $100,000. The SSC also considered funds to be raised from the Willard Annual Fund (WAF).

In order for Willard to have the one I.B. Coordinator/CRT position, the WAF would have to raise $50,000. For a full time I.B. Coordinator <u>and</u> a full time Curriculum Resource Teacher, the Annual Fund would have to raise $100,000 by June 30, 2011.