



WILLOW LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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<http://wil.scdsb.on.ca>

From the Desk of Principal Peck

When I was a student in elementary school, nasty students had three methods of communication: an anonymous note stuffed in a desk, the bathroom wall, or face to face. There was the telephone too, of course; that makes four methods. But as most families only had one phone screwed to the kitchen wall, lying about someone or calling someone a bad name while your mom or dad were doing the dishes didn't go over too well, so that never happened. The cowards used the bathroom wall or the anonymous note. Nasty cowards have been responsible for much trouble in the world down through the ages. Today is no different. We hear of nasty cowards spreading rumours over social media all the time. I say "nasty" and I say "cowards" because those words well suit the person who does such things. I am not referring to the student who made a mistake and foolishly posted a mean or unhelpful rumour. That person was spoken to and learned from his or her mistake. I am talking about the kind of student who makes a habit of hurting others over the Internet. Don't let that student be your child. Help them to learn from their social media mistakes. In order to do this I urge you to carefully monitor their social media "footprint". Teach them to speak to their perceived enemies face to face privately, not publically over social media. Teach them to be kind and brave in the ways they choose to communicate. If they do this, they might just figure out that it was a misunderstanding in the first place that led to "enemy" status. Their so-called enemy created by unkind rumours and innuendo might actually make a good friend.

From the Desk of Vice-Principal Best

Report cards go home on Friday, February 17th. As a mom, I tell my daughters when it comes to school work, I have expectations – they don't have to be THE best, just THEIR best. I think if I have and hold these expectations, they will continue to work towards THEIR success. That takes me out of the equation and my children take ownership and accountability for their success. Of course, I do what I can to provide an environment for learning.

As a Vice Principal, I do try to do the same – provide an environment for learning while setting expectations that make students accountable for their learning. This article shows ways to do this from home:

High Expectations Will Lead to Your Child's Academic Success

Research shows that parents' expectations have a huge impact on their students' achievement. Studies show that: Children strive to reach parents' expectations of them. If you believe in your child and expect them to succeed in school, they are likely to have high academic achievement. Students' own expectations match their parents' expectations. When parents say things like "I believe you can do well in school," students begin to have the same belief in themselves. Children who clearly understand their parents' expectations of success spend more time on their homework. Help your child achieve his/her maximum potential by: Telling them what you expect of them in school. Use the new year to evaluate the first half of the school year and to set new goals for the rest of it. Ask them what they expect to achieve. Set attainable goals together, such as

improving their grade in Reading by one full letter grade. Discuss their future. Compare your dreams for your child with their own. Talk about what they would like to do after elementary school, after high school, including potential careers or post-secondary plans. Tell them that you support them and know they can succeed in whatever they do.

Source: E.N. Patrikakou, "Adolescence: Are Parents Relevant to Students' High School Achievement and Post-Secondary Attainment?" FINE Network at Harvard Family Research Project, www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/digest/adolescence.html.

Your Top 8 Snow Day Questions Answered

Bus cancellations and snow days are inevitable in Simcoe County. Each time buses are (or aren't!) cancelled, the SCDSB and the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) receive many questions from students, parents and community members. Check out the *Sharing Simcoe* blog for the top eight questions and answers - visit www.sharingsimcoe.com and search for 'snow'. Remember to follow the SCSTC on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus for bus updates and cancellations.

Is your child turning four this year? It's time to register for Kindergarten

Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

Student information notice for parents of Grade 8 students

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. Select student information will be shared at different times as appropriate. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under sections 170, 171, 190 Part X and Part XIII of the Education Act. All information used for the transition process is limited, secure and protected at all times. Please contact Paula Murphy, Superintendent of Education for this area, if you would like more information about the transition process at Willow Landing.

School Council is on Facebook and Twitter

Check out this link: <https://www.facebook.com/WillowLanding-School-Council-1328400890533300/>

Follow School Council: @WillowLandingSC

Changes to Safe Arrival Calls

Safe Arrival calls are now automated. When calling Safe Arrival, please do so as early as possible during the morning of the absence, or even the night before. The sooner the better. Safe Arrival is "manned" by an auto-attendant. Always call as early as possible. Thanks for your cooperation. On an inclement weather day, anyone who is not at school will get an automated call even if they have already called in the absence. Only return this call if your child SHOULD be at school.

Changes to our Lunch Program - notice of upcoming changes

It is our intention over the course of the next few months to go paperless and completely online with our Lunch Program ordering. This will save our parent volunteers and office staff time. Offering lunches to your children is time consuming for the parents who gladly volunteer their time; it's a service and a fundraiser for a good cause, but some changes need to be made to help our volunteers. Going paperless and online will also prevent forms and money from being lost and/or misplaced. So, if you have not already set up a School Cash online account, please do so as soon as possible. More information regarding this will be sent home soon.

For now, here's what you need to know:

Effective Wednesday, February 8th, pizza will not be sold by the slice. It must have been purchased via our paper or online ordering system. In other words, no pizza for sale on February 8th or on any other Wednesdays after that.

Later this month, you will receive a letter with instructions for getting your online account up and running if you have not already done so, as well as a timeline for online only ordering.

Operations Appreciation Day - a chance to say 'thank you'

Feb. 8 is Operations Appreciation Day in the Simcoe County District School Board. We celebrate and recognize our custodians and operations maintenance employees for the great work they do every day to keep our schools safe and clean. We'd like to say thanks to Mrs. Porto, Mrs. Kosatka, Mr. Hodge and Ms. Gaudet.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

February 1	Earth Rangers Assembly - 1:45 p.m. (Grades K-6)
February 6-8	Gr. 6 Kandalore Trip
February 15	Character Education Assembly, 9:00 AM
February 17	Report Cards go home today
February 17	Grade 8 Graduation photos
February 20	Family Day (no classes)
February 21	Grade 5 Outdoor Education Trip
February 22	School Council Meeting at 6:00 PM
February 28	Grade 7 and 8 Immunizations
February 28	Intermediate Girls Volleyball Tournament in our Gym