

Willow Elementary

February Principal's Message



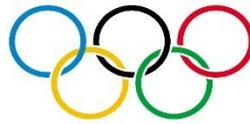
February 5, 2018

Dear Parents,

There are great things going on at Willow! This week we will be doing our STEM Olympics to help celebrate the Winter Olympics. I am so excited when I visit classrooms every day and see wonderful teaching and learning. I am seeing many future engineers! They did a great job on their pie launching devices for the assembly last week! The students are engaged and excited to learn. Please ask them about their day every day. Here are the plans for the STEM Olympics:

Willow Elementary

STEM OLYMPICS



February 5-9, 2018

Monday

- Opening Ceremony-9AM classes stand in halls, pass the torch, sing national anthem, pledge, Howls, light torch in gym
- Halls decorated with banners
- **Wear red, white, and/or blue**
- Daily announcements with facts
- STEM **Technology** activities

Tuesday

- Daily announcements with facts
- STEM **Engineering** activities
- **Wear –dress like a winter Olympic athlete, sweats**

Wednesday

- Daily announcements with facts
- STEM **Math** activities
- **Wear gold, silver, or bronze**

Thursday

- Daily announcements with facts

- STEM **Science** activities
- **Wear winter gear**

Friday

- Daily announcements with facts and medal count
- Wear school colors
- Closing ceremony- 3:00-3:30 in gym- banners, Olympic theme, Carrie Underwood song/video, guest speaker
- Olympic Certificates

Home Connections

- We will post ideas on our Facebook for you to do as a family for fun or teachers may send notes home with ideas for you to do as a family
- Some classes may have a student reporter that is chosen and will send a paper home to fill out for the student to act as the reporter the next day in class

This is going to be so fun and a great learning experience!! I am so proud to be a STEM school!!! Thanks STEM committee!

This is voluntary. You can do as much or as little as you want. Enjoy! We are starting on the 5th because the next week is white ribbon week and the following week Valentine's Day. However, the Olympics go from February 8-25th so, some classes may do more.

Thanks!

We just finished our mid-year benchmarks and are seeing great progress. It is from student participation in these assessments that we learn how students are progressing in reading and math. We will be sharing that with you at the upcoming conferences on February 7 and 8 from 4-8PM. There will be **no school for kindergarten students on February 9** for them to finish conferences. Students have been keeping track of their progress in their Wolf Tracks Folders and are excited to share with you. Some grades will be doing student lead conferences. If you have not signed up for a conference, please contact the office.

I would like to remind anyone in grades K-6 that still has not done the online registration at the beginning of the year to please take the time to do so. We will be available in the office to help during conferences. It doesn't take long. You can do this on the Tooele School District website. In doing so, this updates your contact information and helps us to ensure that we always have up-to-date and accurate information about your student, and provides the necessary forms for them to participate in recess, PE, computers, and school pictures.

We will be having our fourth annual DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP WEEK! Our community council will again help sponsor White Ribbon Week. It will be February 12-16. There will be an announcement/tip on internet safety each day, we will have an assembly on the 16th sponsored by NETSMARTZ and the Attorney General's office, and Ann Staley from our community council and other members as well as the PTA will be doing activities for students all week long at lunch. Robyn Warner, our computer specialist, will be helping out as well. This year we will be adding an event for parents. We would like to keep you informed as well so, we are having a brunch on Friday morning followed by your own informational NetSmartz assembly. We will have forms at the office for you to RSVP for this during conferences. Here are the topics and activities that your students will do during the week:

Willow Elementary

White Ribbon Week

February 12-16, 2018

Special Thanks to our Community Council, PTA, and NETSMARTZ

Monday

- Morning Announcement Power Boost: "I will use technology to show kindness and respect."
- Classroom discussion -Why? Because kindness matters
- Challenge/Lunchroom Activity- Send a positive text (paper)

Tuesday

- Morning Announcement Power Boost: "I will give priority to real life relationships."
- Classroom discussion -Why? Because we need real life
- Challenge/Lunchroom Activity- Create a pennant

Wednesday

- Morning Announcement Power Boost: "I will choose to balance my day."
- Classroom discussion -Why? I'm in charge of how I spend my time (circle graph)
- Challenge/Lunchroom Activity- balancing activities

Thursday

- Morning Announcement Power Boost: "I will choose healthy activities to handle stress and boredom."
- Classroom discussion -Why? Because we need healthy ways to handle tough emotions
- Challenge/Lunchroom Activity- Yoga

Friday

- Morning Announcement Power Boost: "I will remember that not everything online is real."
- Classroom discussion -Why? Thinking and telling an adult will help me make safe choices.
- Challenge/Lunchroom Activity- Tic-Tac-Toe Toss

***Friday

Net Smartz- brunch and parent assembly...brunch at 8:30 (RSVP at parent/teacher conferences at the office) and assembly 9:30-10:30

Student assembly K-2 1:30 & 3-6 2:15

Please watch for information on our "One Book, One School." Our reading committee is in the process of choosing the book and planning the event. It will be held in March this year and we are going to do it similar to STEM Fest and have Math/Literacy/STEM/Growth Mindset and Kindness breakouts for you to attend.

Our Buddy Squad and our Student Council are always doing activities and planning ideas to make our school climate a welcoming, kind, and bully free place. Teachers are also teaching Second Step (you may have seen some of the posters around our school or at home activities), which is the district wide curriculum design to nurture social-emotional competence in students and promote school success, self-regulation, with a sense of safety and support. Julie Spindler and Kara Strain our district representatives came to speak with fifth and sixth grade students and will be coming to present as one of the break-outs at our "One Book, One School Night." They talked about the difference between teasing, conflict, and bullying. They shared ways on how to be kind. They stressed with students the importance of Stop, Walk, Talk (tell and adult). Here are some tips for parents:

What Parents Can Do To Protect Kids

- **Communication:** Talk to your kids about this...and other topics and activities they may see online and other places. We must also be good listeners to what they have to say!
- **Bonding:** Create a positive home environment and do things together as a family. Stay actively involved in your child's life—even if you think they aren't listening to you. You make a difference!
- **Boundaries:** Set rules and expectations of what is expected. Unclear rules and expectations leave kids vulnerable to activities that are harmful.
- **Monitoring:** Know where your child is, whom they are with, and what they are doing. Notice your child's emotional well-being, and help them to become involved in worthwhile activities.

Talking About Tough Topics With Kids

- Find out what your child knows already. If your child asks you a difficult question (about sex, death, politics, etc.), you might simply ask, "What have you heard?" This allows your child to tell you what she understands — or misunderstands — and perhaps what concerns are prompting her question.
- Keep your answers simple. Give answers that are appropriate for your child's age. One simple sentence may be enough. Underneath a child's question, she may be worried about her safety, so offer reassurance. You might describe the different ways she is safe and say, "The policeman is there to protect us," or, "The flight attendant is showing us how to stay safe on the airplane."
- Ask more questions. For example, if your child asks you about people being injured on the news, you might say, "I feel sad those people got hurt. How do you feel?"
- Talk again. Be prepared for children to ask the same question many times. This means they are continuing to think about the issue and may need more information. You might save some information for later discussions.

Your students are very important to me! I want to work with you as a team to make sure that your child and every child in our school is doing well! I am always available! I go around every year at the beginning of the school year and read a book to the students with a positive message, then we talk about our school expectations and procedures, I also let them know that I have three important goals for everyone... 1-I want everyone to be safe. 2-I want everyone to be buddies. 3-I want everyone to learn as much as they can. I let them know that if any of these are not happening, that they need to let me know so that we can problem-solve together and fix it.

Kindergarten registration for fall 2018 enrollment will be online this year. We will be opening up the online registration for Kindergarten on February 12th and are offering those that do not have access to the internet at home to complete this process at the school February 22nd or 23rd between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 pm.

The following documentation will be required before a child can officially begin kindergarten:

1. Birth Certificate (State Required)
2. Immunization Record (State Required)
3. Vision Screening (State Required)

Upcoming Events for February

February 2

Kindergarten Science Exploration Day

February 7-9

Student of the Month, Volunteer, and Staff to Howl About Signs go home

February 5-9	STEM Olympics
February 7 & 8	Parent/Student/Teacher Celebrations (conferences)
February 9	No School for Kindergarten (conferences)
February 12-16	Digital Citizenship-White Ribbon Week
February 19	No School Presidents' Day
February 20	5 th grade field trip to symphony
February 22-23	Kindergarten Registration from 9:00-3:00
February 28	Maturation 5 th and 6th grade 9:15 and 10:20
February 28	6 th grade group picture
February 28	Picnic with the Principal
February 23-24	Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2018

Thank you for all that you do!!

Sincerely,
Angie Gillette