



# **WILLOW HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

## **Diversity & Creativity In Action**

### **PARENT INFORMATION BULLETIN**

#### **FIRST EDITION 2010-2011**

**Principal**

#### **Thanks**

On behalf of the entire Willow Hill Elementary Staff, I would like to thank you for your continued involvement and support. While there is much to be accomplished, I am very pleased with the manner in which the school year has progressed thus far. I invite you to become active participants in our learning community. For information with regard to opportunities to volunteer, please contact Ms. Lyndsay Morgan at extension 4123.

#### **Open House 2010**

Thanks again for your support of Willow Hill's 2010 Open House. I hope that you received clear and concise information as a result of conversing with teachers, the PTO, and other pertinent staff members. If you were unable to attend your child's Open House, please contact his/her teacher to obtain the information that was presented.

#### **School Handbook**

You should have received a copy of the Willow Hill School Handbook via your child during the first week of school. This document outlines specific school policies and procedures. Please continue to refer to this handbook, as it will answer many questions and concerns that you may have. A copy is also available on our website under the "Resource" link.

#### **School-Wide Positive Behavior Support**

I really appreciate your efforts with regard to supporting our School-Wide Positive Behavior Support Program. I want to extend a warm thank you to everyone who donated items for our "Think First" store. We will need many donations throughout the year to keep our inventory fully stocked! Please contact the main office if you would like to donate items.

## **Interim Reports**

Interim Reports noting student progress will be sent out the week of October 25. Please contact your child's teacher regarding any questions you may have.

## **Platinum Card Night**

All students received a Platinum Card on the first day of school. This card entitles a student to attend Platinum Card Night. It may also entitle students to extra privileges during the school day. Platinum Card Night will be organized and supervised by parent volunteers and teachers. There will be various fun activities planned for Platinum Card Night, including computers, table games, relay races, music, food, and Open Gym activities. Students will lose their Platinum Card for the marking period if they receive a discipline referral of any kind, or if they are seen abusing any privilege associated with the card. When a teacher enters a discipline referral for a student into the school's database, the teacher will revoke that child's Platinum Card immediately. In addition, a "Loss of Platinum Card" letter will be sent home to the parent of the student in question. All Platinum Cards will be reissued to students after a Platinum Card Night has occurred. Thus, even if a student's Platinum Card was taken away, they have an opportunity to attend a Platinum Card Night in the next marking period (unless they lose it again.) Willow Hill's first Platinum Card Night is scheduled for Thursday, December 2.

## **Arrival**

You are reminded that there is no student supervision prior to 8:30 AM. **Therefore, please do not send your child to school prior to 8:30AM.**

## **Parking**

To ensure the safety of our students, please do not double park along the primary playground loop during arrival and dismissal.

## **Halloween 2010**

A Halloween Parade is scheduled for Friday, October 29 at 2:00 PM. Alternative activities will be provided for students who do not celebrate Halloween. More detailed information will be forthcoming.

## **Conflict Resolution Week**

Conflict Resolution Week is scheduled for the week of November 1. All teachers will teach special lessons which promote conflict resolution.

### **No Place for Hate Assembly**

Willow Hill has been designated as a “No Place for Hate” school. You are invited to attend a special assembly to celebrate this designation on November 3 at 2:30 PM in the Gymnasium.

### **American Education Week**

American Education Week is scheduled for the week of November 15. During this week, parents are invited to visit each classroom to observe a lesson or activity. Informational workshops will also be conducted throughout the week. You will receive additional information regarding the classroom observation schedules soon.

### **Report Card Conferences**

Conferences will be held on December 7, 8, and 9. Students will be dismissed at **12:20 PM** on conference days. Please note that lunch will be served to students. Classroom teachers will contact you soon to schedule a time which best suits your needs.

### **Cognitive Abilities Test**

Students in grades 2 and 4 will take the Cognitive Abilities Test the week of October 18. During this testing window, it is imperative that students are well rested and arrive to school on time. I thank you in advance for your support at home.

### **Dates to Remember**

- 10/12 School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 10/13 Bring Your Dad to School Day @ 9:30AM
- 10/18-22 Cognitive Abilities Test (Grades 2 and 4)
- 10/21 Title I Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- 10/21 PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM
- 10/26 School Board Meeting @ 7:30
- 10/29 Halloween Festival Parade @ 2PM
- 11/1-5 Non-Violent Conflict Resolution Week
- 11/2 Schools Closed – Election Day
- 11/3 No Place For Hate Assembly @ 2:30PM
- 11/8 Parent Advisory Council Meeting (Gifted) @ 7:30PM-CopperBeech
- 11/9 School Board Meeting @ 7:30PM
- 11/15-19 American Education Week; Willow Hill Book Fair
- 11/18 Title I Meeting @ 5:30 PM
- 11/18 PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM
- 11/19 Hawk Assembly @ 2:00 PM
- 11/19 Movie Night @ 5:30 PM
- 11/23 School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM

- 11/25-26 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving
- 11/29-12/3 Willow Hill Holiday Shoppe
- 12/2 Platinum Card Night @ 6:30 PM
- 12/7-9 Report Card Conferences
- 12/14 School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 12/24-1/2 Schools Closed – Winter Recess

## Kindergarten

**Language Arts:** Our reading program, Treasures, integrates all the language components that kindergarteners need to build a strong reading and writing foundation. Our first unit theme is *Families*. Each unit lasts for three weeks. We read big books, trade books, and selections from an anthology. Selections are read from various genres to expose the children to variety of literature. High frequency words, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, and comprehension skills are presented and taught with each unit. The books we will read in the first unit are: Whose Baby Am I?, The Picnic at Apple Park, and Peter's Chair. The reading program also integrates science lessons in which we will learn about animals and their babies by reading and discussing nonfiction photo essays. This approach dovetails our lessons on families in social studies. Have some fun at home discussing family traditions and celebrations, so your child can join in on our circle time discussions.

### Skills to practice at home:

- Reading and writing from left to right.
- High frequency words: I, can, we, the, am, like, my.
- Phonics: the sound of short and long A, & I and the sounds of M, P, T, S.
- Printing: children need to continue practicing their names using an uppercase letter to start followed by lowercase letters.
- Sentence structure: Have fun making up *I am* and *I can* sentences.

**Math:** We began the year with number recognition, counting (we are counting up to 100 days of school), introducing the calendar, recognizing shapes, creating patterns, and learning about measurement. All of these skills will continue to be taught through hands on exploration, computer activities. *apples4theteacher.com* provides an array of activities to support the development of math skills. You may want to start your child on the interactive number graph under the math tab on their homepage. Children can practice number recognition and counting by coloring number patterns that you suggest. **Parental guidance is always recommended when your child uses the web.**

It was wonderful meeting all of you at the Open House.

The Kindergarten Team

## First Grade

Hello First Grade Parents!

Mrs. Doctor and Mrs. McGinley would like to welcome Mrs. Lee to the first grade team! Many of you already know how lucky we are to have Mrs. Lee with us this year. We also welcome some students new to Willow Hill: Jackson, Olivia, Emmanuel, Kanye, Brooke, Sani, Tabitha, Cantrell, and Jalen.

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend Open House. We are looking forward to getting to know all of your children in the coming months. In the classroom, we are focusing on listening skills, following directions, remaining on task, and following all classroom and school rules. Please discuss these skills with your child at home! We are still learning our behavior expectations for the cafeteria, playground, classroom and hallway.

We will now start sending home new spelling words and sight words to practice each week. Spelling tests will usually take place on Fridays. The sight words are an important part of the first grade program, so please help your child read the words quickly and accurately.

In math, we are building our mathematical knowledge by counting on the number line, comparing pairs of numbers and reviewing tally counts. We have learned to play Monster Squeeze, Top It and the Penny Dice Game. Ask your child to show you how to play! Please check your child's homework each night and help them with corrections.

In social studies, we will learn about groups, families, and citizenship. This marking period, in science, we will explore Weather.

Be sure to sign and return tests and homework. Please go through all the papers in your child's folder each night.

Thank you again for your support!

Mrs. Doctor, Mrs. McGinley and Mrs. Lee

## Second Grade

### **Language Arts**

Second grade is enjoying being back to school. Our vocabulary is challenging and the stories are wonderful. We are improving our phonics skills and are writing about ourselves and our friends.

## **Math**

We have increased our ‘fact power’ by practicing our facts and playing games like “Addition Top-It.” Our Unit 2 includes Frames-and-Arrow problems and problem solving in number stories. In Unit 3, we will: explore geoboards and geometrical designs; solve multi-step problems involving change from \$1; review place value in 2-digit and 3-digit numbers; tell time and write time in digital notation; along with exploring base-10 blocks.

## **Social Studies**

We are wrapping up Unit 1- We Live Together. We discussed how we live together at home, in school, and also in our neighborhoods and communities. Main ideas and supporting details were a focus as we read biographies and informational texts. The students used and created grid maps, and discussed cultures and traditions.

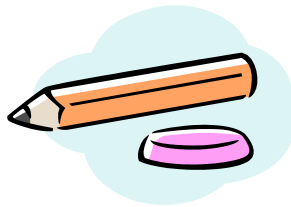
## **Science**

We will soon begin our ‘Soils’ Unit. The children will: analyze and describe sand, humus, and clay; discuss composting and the role of organisms, such as worms; perform tests and cooperatively work together in partnerships; and record and organize test result information. This unit is fun and MESSY!

Please keep the new pencils coming!!!!!!!!!!

We are doing a great job of earning tickets for good behavior!

## Third Grade



### **Language Arts:**

Our current theme is Our World. The students will explore our world by reading books and stories about different people, places, and cultures. Grammar, spelling, writing, comprehension, vocabulary, listening, and speaking skills will continue to be practiced.

### **Math:**

The year has begun with Unit 1: Routines, Review, and Assessment. We will review activities for mathematics that the children have encountered in earlier grades. For example, the students will explore patterns on a number grid, review telling time, measuring lengths, and using calculators. The review of data concepts and making predictions based on data will be covered in Unit 1. The students will also give equivalent names for numbers.

**Reminder:** Parents, please remember to look for the **Parent Letter** which introduces each new unit and has the answers to the Home Links homework sheets. This will give you advanced notice of the various skills your child will be taught in the classroom. Look for your child's Student Reference Book to come home every day. This book can be used as a resource for you and your child when completing math homework.

**Social Studies:**

The students will study communities this year in third grade. The year will begin with the study of "Communities and Geography." For example, how does where you live affect how you live? The students will focus on the people, places, and events of different types of communities.

The third grade team looks forward to working with you to help our third graders continue to learn, grow, explore, and achieve. We truly appreciate your support at home and can't wait to see how high our third grade hawks will fly.

The Third Grade Team  
Mrs. Etlén and Mrs. Walton

## Fourth Grade

Jean Medick, a Michigan teacher and author said, "As a teacher, I feel I have a moral obligation to help the children in my classroom grow toward becoming full human beings and to feel successful;. Teaching cognitive skills is not enough..."

We agree with Ms. Medick and know our actions, attitudes and expectations greatly influence how our students act. We feel that learning is very important...and so are they. We try to be firm and consistent with the children, while developing a good rapport, along with a sense of humor (very important!)

Consistent and fair discipline develops a sense of caring and security in the classroom and at home. The word *discipline* comes from the word *disciple*, which means to teach or instruct. Children with behavior problems usually share one characteristic: a poor self image. We try to discipline with encouragement and kind words. We want to improve the child's self-image and their own sense of responsibility for their actions and attitudes.

We appreciate and always need your help. You, the parents, are our strongest allies. Your actions, attitudes and expectations will greatly influence your child's actions. If you are consistent and firm with your child and have a rapport with them, they will respond positively to these things in their classrooms and with the teachers and students in school. Please don't forget your "sense of humor;" it's a very important *survival* technique. Studies have shown that laughter can add years to your life!

Enjoy...you have wonderful children, who are progressing in all areas of the curriculum. Ms. White-Burrough's and I often talk about how much we enjoy our students this year. Keep us informed and keep up the good work!

Best Regards,  
Susan Skilton and Alethia White-Burroughs

## Fifth Grade

We are off to a wonderful start. Now to keep up the pace, work and study. We have a fast-moving, interesting curriculum.

The month of September will see us finishing the first reading unit: Challenges. We start the second unit: Discoveries toward the end of October. The anthology is colorful and contains many interesting stories. Check it out.

In science, all three classes will study Microworlds. Ask your children about the numerous hands-on activities. In social studies, we are studying Units 1 and 2: Colonial America, for this marking period. Please ensure your child reads and rereads these social studies lessons so that they are familiar with the information. This makes studying for tests easier also. I recommend the children read the Social Studies Text as part of their daily 20-30 minutes of reading.

In math, we will finish (and test for) Units 1 and 2. The end of October will see us starting Unit 3: Geometry Exploration, ending with a test early November. To assist your child, please help them review all the homework Study Links, Math Box pages and use the SRB (Student Reference Book). The children should be taking the SRB home every night. If you are pondering a question the SRB is an **excellent resource** and learning tool.

Remember, part of your child's homework is to read every day for 20 – 30 minutes. We would also like to remind you to check all the daily homework and then sign the Homework Assignment journal/book. Please feel free to write notes in this journal if you ever have questions or concerns. We check it every day. It is our connection to you.

Encourage your child to stay organized. Have them empty (and repack) their own bags each evening to remove the build-up of papers and homework. Please be on the look-out for the weekly **Thursday** newsletters. All text books need to be covered. This keeps them clean and intact.

We do not have lunch until 12:10 P.M. Please ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast – food for the brain, and gets plenty of sleep.

Yours in teaching,  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team: Ms. Wasekanes, Mr. Welsh and Ms. McDevitt

## Sixth Grade

Now we are three! Please join us in welcoming Ms. Cara Casciani to our sixth grade team.

In math, we are reviewing how to create, read, and interpret bar graphs, broken line graphs, and step graphs. We are re-visiting the landmarks of data and have learned how to play a new game, "Landmark Shark," that reinforces our skills.

In communication arts, we are learning how to use our Active Reading Strategies in order to become better readers. The best thing we can do to become better readers is to Read, Read, Read. Sixth graders are expected to read at least 30 minutes each evening.

Our science focus for the first marking period is Magnets and Motors, and our social studies curriculum centers on Rivers and Civilizations.

Thank you to our parents and guardians for equipping the children with their needed supplies. Also, we want to thank you for sending in tissues.

Your sixth grader needs their assignment book signed each evening. The assignment book is a great way to correspond with us. Of course, sending us an e-mail or calling is fine, too.

We were happy to see you at Open House on Monday, September 27.

## Resource Room

Welcome back! This school year promises to be one filled with challenges, excitement, and success! All the students in room 115 are from grades 4, 5, and 6. This means more responsibility and higher expectations. Some of those higher expectations will focus on the completion and the quality of homework. Students will have homework every night. All parts of the homework must be completed. I expect nothing less than 100% effort on all homework assignments.

The following are some tips for parents on how to best help your child with homework:

### **Homework Checklist for Parents**

- Provide a quiet, well-lit space, away from distractions and with all the right study materials- paper, pens and pencils, books, a dictionary, a desk, etc.
- Try to find a separate space for each of your children, or schedule quiet times for homework in designated spaces.
- Create a regular schedule, allowing for adequate study and free time.

- Limit TV time, and do not allow it during homework.
- When possible, be available to answer questions. Try doing a problem or two together; then watch as the child tries the next one.
- Avoid simply giving an answer. Instead, ask questions that let your child see the problem in smaller, sequential steps.
- Review the Willow Hill homework planner with your child nightly.
- Review completed and graded assignments. Discuss errors to be sure your child understands the material.
- Share any concerns with your children's teachers about the amount or type of homework assigned. Be sure to let them know if your children are having difficulty or are unable to do most of it by themselves.

## Ms. Jedlinski

Our year has begun with a lot of excitement and effort! The children arrive each day ready to learn and accept the challenges put before them.

In language arts, we continue to utilize the Triumphs Reading program and are very comfortable in the weekly formats and assessments. The weekly assessment is a very useful tool that tells us exactly what our strengths and weaknesses are so that we can put an extra effort in where it is needed.

Our daily journals, friendly letter writing and paragraph development is one of the best parts of our day. It allows us to be as creative as we want but also makes us very aware of how important punctuation, spelling and grammar are. An important lesson we have all learned is that if it's not written right, it sure doesn't sound right being read aloud.

Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, time, money, fractions. Whew! Who knew we would be exposed to all this everyday. Maybe that's why we use the "Everyday Math" program. It sure sounds like a coincidence to me. With a good grasp on these concepts, it's getting easier to see how they tie into so many other areas. We can see math in the lunch experience, gym, music and even the playground.

Our Service Learning Project this year will be a theme that calls upon our patriotic nature and our generous side. We plan to raise awareness of the needs of our military personnel serving in countries throughout the world. More news to follow...

If you happen to pass by room 133, please stop in and check out all the ways we make learning fun. Technology is a large part of our world today and we carry that right into the classroom with websites such as "First in Math," "Compass Learning," "Spelling City," and "Tumble Books." We also deal with real life experiences, taking responsibility for many plants, fish and especially each other.

We are planning on having a fantastic year with plenty of growth both academically, physically and socially!

## Ms. Marshall

It's hard to believe that another summer vacation has passed us by, and a new school year has begun. The students returned to school excited to tell about their summer adventures, meet new friends, and begin a new year of learning and fun.

The older students have been excellent role models to the new kindergarten students. Since the very first day of school, they have demonstrated the school wide expectations of *Respect* by putting forth their best effort by being *responsible* for themselves, taking care of others, as well as being very *cooperative* and *kind* to their new classmates, peers and staff within the school community.

All of the students have decided on some very important personal goals for the year, which makes for a very busy and fun year ahead for us, especially in the areas of math and language arts. We will use the **Triumphs Reading** program as we develop and improve our reading and writing skills in the areas of phonics, word recognition, vocabulary and comprehension. As we strive for our math goals, we will be involved in hands-on, real-world problem solving opportunities as we develop and improve our skills in the areas of numbers and computation, geometry and measurement, probability and statistics, and algebraic concepts. And to top it off, students have already begun to have lots of fun as they practice these skills and strategic thinking through games. The **Everyday Mathematics** program used in the classroom assists us in making all of this come to life on a daily basis!

We began our ongoing daily math routines on the first day of school with attendance, jobs, calendar, daily schedule, weather observations, daily temperature, surveys and number of the day as we begin our count to 100 Days of school. The new students are becoming accustomed to the routines and have begun their learning of mathematics, specifically, numbers. As they progress through the first math unit, they will be introduced to pattern blocks, counting, sorting, graphing and coins. The returning students have begun their journey on developing and improving their *fact power*, and review of coin values, measurements and time. As the unit progresses, they will develop and improve strategies for addition and subtraction problems.

The year has started off with excitement and we look forward to what's to come in the year ahead!

## Ms. Seslow

Welcome back! We are off to an exciting start to the school year. The students are already working hard and learning a lot!! We are getting to know some new friends and

learning more about our old friends, too. One way we are getting to know each other is through our “All About Me Collages.” I am really enjoying getting to know your children even better as they share information about their family, friends and their many interests!

The theme, this year, for the Abington School District calendar is parent involvement. What better opportunity is there than to get involved in your child’s education. There are many ways to get involved at Willow Hill. You can volunteer in your child’s classroom, in the library, computer lab or even join the PTO. Even if you can’t come into the school, you can still be actively involved at home by helping your child complete homework assignments, class projects and studying for tests.

Please look for homework assignments that are coming home from my class each night in a blue folder. Completing homework is important because a firm knowledge of the reading patterns, sight vocabulary and spelling words is important for your child’s academic success. These words will continue to come up throughout the year in stories and reading tests.

I look forward to working together, as a team, to help your child reach their highest potential, meet those far-reaching goals and have another successful school year at Willow Hill!

## Mathematics

Welcome to another fun and busy year of mathematics at Willow Hill. The flurry of back-to-school activities has diminished somewhat and students are getting comfortable with the demands of the new school year.

In each classroom, and at every grade level, teachers are using the Everyday Mathematics program to teach, reinforce, and extend each student’s math literacy and fluency. This differentiated instruction will enable teachers to meet the educational needs of all of our learners.

This year, as in the past, students will also be able to use computer programs such as Compass Learning and First in Math to sharpen their computation and problem-solving skills.

Mathfax, Math Olympiad, and The Pennsylvania Math League contests are some of the activities available for our students in math enrichment. Third graders will participate in Mathfax, while the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in Math Olympiad. Sixth grade math enrichment students will also be part of The Pennsylvania Math League contest which takes place in the spring.

As always, please encourage your child to practice math facts and problem-solving at home, because the more he/she practices math, the better his/her math skills will be.

## Title I

Greetings Willow Hill Community-

I am very happy to join the Willow Hill family this year as the Title I Curriculum Specialist! This year I have been charged with leading a small learning community within our school. I will be working with students eligible to receive Title I services in the area of Mathematics, providing support in the classrooms. In addition, I will be working closely with the Title I Reading Specialists. I come to you with experience in teaching elementary grades K, 1, 3, 5, as well as grade 8. I spent the last five years at Rydal Elementary in Abington where I taught grades 3 and 5. I hold Elementary Teacher Certification, Reading Specialist Certification, as well as Principal Certification. A graduate of Howard University, I completed my Master's at Temple University where I have returned and am currently working on a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

This year, as a part of the Title I program, we are planning more events and activities during the school day, as well as after school and evenings to support your child's academic success. We look forward to your participation and feedback so that we may continue to provide the support and resources necessary for achievement for all students.

The Title I Parent Meeting Schedule for this year is as follows:

October 21

November 18

January 27

April 14

May 11

June 9

Flyers will be sent home with your child prior to meetings. You will be asked to sign and return the bottom portion of the flyer to let us know that you will be attending the meeting. We have very informative meetings scheduled and look forward to your participation.

Look out for Title I Parent Workshops coming this year! More information to follow...

Sincerely,

Lyndsay Morgan

Elementary Curriculum Specialist

## Reading Specialists

### **Pages For Progress –Coming in October**

The Willow Hill faculty and staff are actively involved in promoting more reading at home by our students. In an effort to increase the amount of time Willow Hill students spend reading, the staff has



instituted a nightly minimum time for silent reading as part of each student's homework requirements. The Willow Hill teachers also feel that it is important for our students to set goals and be rewarded for achieving those goals. As a result, Willow Hill is sponsoring a reading incentive for the whole school.

## **Our school wide goal is to read over 1,000,000 pages between October and May!**

WOW – that's a lot of pages!! Reaching our goal will be amazing and it is doable. Each child reading 20 minutes per day puts us well on the way to one million pages! Encourage your student to read and log their pages daily in their homework book, reading log, or calendar. At the end of each month, individual and class totals will be tallied. There will be monthly class and individual rewards. If we achieve our goal of 1,000,000 pages read, the entire student body will be rewarded with a special day in June. If we all work together, we can achieve this goal!!

## **Joining our Reading Team this year are two teachers new to our district:**

Trish Dougherty comes to us from Cheltenham School District where she spent the last semester as a Reading Specialist. Prior to her time there, Trish spent ten years home with her children. She has more than nine years total teaching experience and is thrilled to be back spending her days in the classroom. Trish has her BS in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Reading and Special Education. She is excited to become part of the Willow Hill family.

Kristen Balas is returning to Willow Hill after joining the reading team in March of last year. Prior to Abington, Kristen was a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and reading specialist in Hatboro-Horsham School District. She is currently working on her Master's degree with certification in Special Education. She is delighted to be back at Willow Hill with such an amazing group of kids!

## **Art**

We have started out the school year with a blast of colors and shape assignments!!

This is my first year returning to the elementary level after 17 years at the Abington Junior High. I started working at the Abington School District in September of 1984 at the Willow Hill School as an art teacher.

All classes will explore the art elements of design; Line, Shape, Color, Shape, and Texture/Patterns. The art students had an opportunity to express themselves artistically by creating their own designs for a sneaker drawing. Many children were encouraged to take their sneaker home and have their parent or a significant person in their life to help

with their design. Kudos to the parents and others who joined in on creating these fabulous designs!

Kindergarten and first graders will explore crayon resist in the coming weeks. Second and third grades will create haunted castles and autumn scenes using various cut paper shapes while learning how to compose a picture using the horizon line to separate foreground from background. Those amazing fourth graders will design their own face card while using warm colors versus cool colors. Cultural mask drawings and paintings will be accomplished by the fabulous fifth grades and our sixth grade art students. Looks like the art students will be quite busy.

“See you in the funny papers...”

Anthony T. Shelton, Sr.

## Physical Education

As a graduate of Abington Senior High in 1994 and Health and Physical Education teacher in the Abington School District for the past 9 years, I am extremely excited about teaching physical education at Willow Hill Elementary School. I graduated from Kean University in Union, New Jersey with a degree in Health and Physical Education and participated on the men’s basketball team as well. In addition, I completed my Master of Arts degree in Health Education from Arcadia University. My hobbies include sports, exercising, coaching basketball, traveling, reading, and volunteer and charity work.

I am a firm believer in teaching the fundamentals of individual and team sports in an environment that is safe and enjoyable for students. In my classroom, I emphasize the importance of safety, sportsmanship, hard work, teamwork, practice, enthusiasm, and self-confidence. I am looking forward to teaching your children this school year!

Thanks so much,  
Gregory S. Godfrey

## Music

Happy Autumn from Music! During the months of September and October we will get our music program back into full swing. The primary students have begun learning new songs, while also being introduced to reading music notation and reviewing concepts from last year. Our third graders have started the pre-string program and our fourth graders have begun the pre-band process, in addition to their general music classes. The fifth and sixth graders have begun their work on music for the Winter Concert; don’t forget to mark your calendars for the December 15<sup>th</sup> performance! It will be here before we know it!

## The Willow Hill Library

Welcome to a brand new school year! This year promises to be very busy at the library. We have a newly installed Promethean Board that we plan to use regularly and creatively, and many exciting challenges in store for our students. In the library, we are providing a library orientation and review of rules and procedures to every student, both old and new. We are also incorporating new procedures to make full use of the library period, which includes a library lesson, selection of reading materials, and time for Accelerated Reader.

Students should be aware of the 4Rs of the Library Program which emphasize RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, READING, and RESEARCH, in conjunction with the school-wide behavior plan.

### Library Volunteers

A special shout of thanks to Willow Hill students who have asked parents, neighbors and friends about volunteering in the library. Several parents have reported the recruitment efforts of their young ones. Go Hawks! At Willow Hill, both students and staff appreciate your service at our library, 30 minutes a week or more. We know that it is a sacrifice of your time and energy. If you are able, let us know when you are available.

### Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader (AR) Program has begun. A few changes will be made in the implementation of the program this year. A letter with specific information about this computer-based reading program will be provided. Your child will receive a print-out each time he/she is successful on a quiz. Join us as we encourage and ensure that your child is reading consistently throughout the school year.

### Acceptable Use Policy

Students in the Abington School District must complete an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) form in order to use the Internet at school. Students have been given instruction regarding this policy. All forms must be completed with the required signatures and returned as soon as possible.

## Psychologist

Welcome Back Parents!

I wanted to take a moment to inform parents of my role as the School Psychologist at Willow Hill. At Willow Hill, I am part of the Response to Instruction and Intervention Team and the School Wide Positive Behavior Support Program. Being involved in these program initiatives gives me the opportunity to get to know all of the students in the school. Among my duties, I visit classrooms and consult with teachers and parents/guardians to identify potential problems and develop plans for interventions. At a more formal level, I work with the multidisciplinary team to evaluate children

experiencing school difficulties and recommend services and/or programs designed to meet specific needs. I am happy to speak with you further if you have specific concerns about your child's development. I wish you all a happy and successful school year!

Dr. Suzanne Grim

## Service Learning

### **What Is Service Learning?\***

Service Learning helps students build character by allowing them to foster and develop personal values, beliefs, awareness, self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of empathy and social responsibility. It is a teaching model that uses community service as a vehicle to help students reach their academic goals and objectives. Service learning is based on a reciprocal relationship in which service in the community reinforces and strengthens learning in the classroom, and classroom experiences reinforce and strengthen interaction in the community.

### **How can you help?**

Encourage your children to participate in activities and provide service in the community. Please continue to remind your children to keep track of their Service Learning hours on their log. If they need a new log, you can download it from the Abington School District website. Click on **Our Schools** and select Senior High. Next, click on **Academics** and select Service Learning. Finally, click on **Forms** and select Log Sheet.

**All log sheets are due no later than April 29<sup>th</sup>!!!!**

\* Source: Service Learning website of Abington School District\*

