



WILLOW HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Diversity & Creativity in Action

PARENT INFORMATION BULLETIN

SECOND EDITION 2010-2011

Principal

Global Connect

We recently sent several important messages to all parents via home telephone landlines and cellular phones. However, many of the messages were rejected because phone numbers on file are invalid. Please ensure that the main office has updated information regarding telephone numbers as we will often use the global connect feature to relay important messages regarding school events.

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 soon contact you to schedule a conference time which best suits your needs. Below are some suggestions as to how to prepare for your child's conference:

1. Think of the traits about your child that make him/her unique.
2. List in your mind your child's strengths.
3. Consider those areas where you think your child needs to improve.
4. Think about the feelings and attitudes your child has shared about school.
5. Be ready to share any problems or concerns you or your child have.

6. Approach the conference with an open mind. Be receptive to any suggestions the teacher might have.
7. Be prepared to listen carefully to what the teacher shares with you about your child.
8. Come to the conference with a positive feeling, knowing that this is another opportunity to learn about your child's growth and development from dedicated professionals who truly care about your child's welfare.

Platinum Card Night

All students received a Platinum Card on September 10. 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 computer games, 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 were taken away, that student has an opportunity to attend a Platinum Card Night in the next marking period (unless he/she loses it again). Willow Hill's first Platinum Card Night is scheduled for Thursday, December 2. ***Please contact the main office if you would like to volunteer for this event!!***

Winter Concert

Please note that Willow Hill's Winter Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15 @ 1:30 PM.

Arrival

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

Emergency Cards

Please keep all your contact information current. The office needs correct phone numbers. Please call and notify the office of any changes.

Child Check

When your child is absent, please be sure to call Child Check and leave your child's name, date, teacher's name and reason for absence. A note should be sent in to the teacher upon your child's return.

Visiting the School

For the protection of our children all parents and visitors must use the front main entrance to enter/exit the building and follow these procedures:

1. Report immediately to the office upon entering. Be sure that anyone who may have entered with you comes to the office as well.
2. Ask permission, sign in, and receive a Visitor's Badge to go into any area of the building.
3. Always wear the Visitor's Badge and be sure it is visible.
4. Go only to the areas where permission is granted.
5. Sign out and return Visitor's Badge when leaving the building.

Winter Recess Celebrations

On Thursday, December 23, Willow Hill Elementary will celebrate the beginning of Winter Recess. An exciting student (grade 6 only) versus staff basketball game will take place in the gymnasium. In addition, each class will have a small party to celebrate all of the effort and hard work put into making the first four months of school successful and productive. Parents are invited to attend the basketball game. Additional information with regard to specific time, etc. is forth coming.

Electronic Devices Policy

Students may possess electronic devices including, but not limited to, cellular telephones, cameras, and personal digital assistants with video/camera capabilities within all of the buildings owned by the District, on school grounds, in school vehicles and/or while participating in school-sponsored activities on or off school premises. The administration shall have the right to regulate the use of all electronic devices. In addition to limitations on use imposed by the school administration, possession of electronic devices is subject to the following restrictions:

1. Electronic devices may not be used to conduct any activities that violate state and/or Federal law, Board policy, or school rules.
2. Electronic devices may not be used in any manner which interferes with, or is disruptive to, educational or extracurricular activities or events.

3. Electronic devices must be turned off and stored when students are in classrooms and other locations where instruction is taking place, restrooms, locker rooms, in school vehicles, and in other areas where individuals would have a similar expectation of privacy.

Notwithstanding the rules set forth above, electronic devices may be used at any time to respond to or report an emergency situation.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion.

Dates to Remember

- 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
- 12/7 School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 12/7-9 Report Card Conferences
- 12/15 Willow Hill Winter Concert @ 1:30 PM
- 12/23 Winter Recess Celebrations (Time TBA)
- 12/24-1/2 Schools Closed – Winter Recess
- 1/11 School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 1/17 Schools Closed – MLK Day
- 1/25 School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 1/27 Willow Hill Title 1 Meeting @ 5:30 PM
- 1/27 Willow Hill PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Kindergarten

Language Arts: We recently finished our second unit, Friends. Selections are read from various genres to expose the children to a variety of literature. High frequency words, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, and comprehension skills are presented and taught with each unit. The books we read during unit two are: *What Do You Like? Friends all Around* and *Simon and Molly, Plus Hester*. These stories taught us about many things friends like to do together all over the world, and discussed ways to solve problems friends might have. We focused on the letters M and P, and the words “like” and “a.” We are beginning Unit Three: Transportation, which also incorporates the letters T and I and the words “see” and “go.”

Skills to practice at home:

- Reading and writing from left to right
- High frequency words: I, can, we, the, am, like, my, a, see, go
- 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, I can, I like and I see sentences. Please practice sentences both orally and written.

Math: We are working through Unit Three of the *Everyday Mathematics* program. We have created our own number books, and even began learning about using the pan balance! We have also begun to explore teen numbers and learned how to play the game *Monster Squeeze*. We learned about probability, and practiced determining if an event is certain, unlikely, or impossible. We are continuing to practice counting by fives, tens and twos.

The Kindergarten Team

First Grade

Please remember to practice the sight words and spelling words each night. Don't forget to continue filling in your child's reading calendar each night. Also, as you read, please reinforce the comprehension skill that is listed on the yellow family letter. Keep reading, even over the winter break!

In math, we will begin Unit 4, Measurement and Basic Facts. Children will work with linear measures using rulers and tape measures, and continue to work with thermometers and clocks. They will begin the important work of memorizing basic addition facts. Children will also begin making number scrolls to provide practice with writing numbers and place value. In this unit, they will also be introduced to the Math Message routine which is used through the sixth grade.

We will also complete our weather unit in science. The students have enjoyed learning about the weather conditions. Look for your child's "Meteorologist" certificate. In social studies, we will continue to discuss aspects of Civics and Government, as well as Geography and History.

Please remember to sign and return the tests that are sent home during the week. We look forward to meeting with you during the conferences. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday and New Year!

Second Grade

Great job to our second grade classes who took part in our school-wide 'No Place for Hate' Assembly! We received many compliments. ☺

Math – During math in Unit 3, we will focus on Place Value, Money, Time, and Data Collection. Students will review the place values of 2- and 3-digit numbers; use coins to buy items and make change; and exchange coin amounts. They will enjoy gathering data and entering it into graphs

and tables. Telling Time to the quarter hour, drawing the hands correctly, and writing in digital-clock notation are highlights of this segment. We continue to build on our knowledge of “Frames & Arrows” problems as well, but we have stepped it up with 2 rules! Also, we are now adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers. So our simple addition and subtraction facts to 10 are an absolute **must!** Please help your children memorize their facts; it is a critical component that they must possess for their math success. Unit 4’s focus is Addition and Subtraction. In it, we will solve number stories using ‘Change to More’ and ‘Parts and Total’ diagrams. The unit also includes Temperature Change story problems. Estimating costs and rounding (or ‘ballparking’) numbers is introduced, too.

Communication Arts – Our Unit 2 theme is “Growth and Change.” We are using context clues, dictionaries, and thesauruses to understand antonyms, synonyms, homophones, and multiple meaning words in our quest to build our Vocabulary. We are drawing conclusions, making inferences, generating questions, and identifying the sequence of events in order to help us better understand and summarize what we are reading! Our Text Features and Study Skills include diagrams using labels, graphs, and illustrations and their captions. The Grammar component for this unit includes plural *and* possessive nouns, capitalizations, and commas in a series. In spelling, we are using words with short and long /u/, long /a/, long /i/, long /o/, blends /sl/, /dr/, /sk/, /sp/, and /st/. We will also write ‘**How to . . .**’ instructions. In our Poetry segment, we will use similes. As you can tell, your children do a lot each day! If they bring our books home, please remind them to return them the next day.

Health – We are learning about our personal roles in our Family Lives and important nutritional information in our Nutrition and Fitness section. We will soon be ready to explain why healthy foods and exercise are so important for our growing bodies!

Homework – It is imperative that our second grade students understand and fulfill a commitment for completing their homework. Kudos to all those parents who work diligently with their children to establish this commitment!! Homework books should be signed every night. Also, please check for any teacher messages.

Important:

- **Keep the pencils coming! Lost and over sharpened pencils dwindle our supply. Good, small sharpeners are needed for everyone’s pencil boxes. (Erasers too!) Remind students to return their pencils to their pencil cases after use. Many pencils end up on the floor or in the back of desks. Too much time is wasted with pencil issues!**
- **Quiet, cooperative behavior is expected at all times.**

Third Grade

The third graders have been working hard in all of their subjects. Listed below is a brief description of each subject. These descriptions are designed to give parents information and to be a catalyst for conversations about school.

Math:

The students have finished working in *Unit 3* which focused on measurement. Students used rulers to measure to the nearest half inch and half centimeter; determined area and perimeter. Third grade will begin *Unit 4* which will focus on the most common uses of multiplication and division-those involving equal groups, equal sharing, and equal grouping. The three main areas of focus for this unit are to model and solve multiplication number stories and practice multiplication facts; to model and solve division number stories and practice division facts; and to explore the links between multiplication and division.

Hold on to the *Unit 4 Family Letter*. It gives helpful hints to assist with homework. You may also want to practice multiplication and division facts zero through 10 to help with the memorization of the facts. Flashcards may be useful.

Language Arts:

Our second theme *Investigations* will be ending in the next few weeks. All of the skills taught during the past few weeks will be assessed. Each skill is taught and practiced on a daily basis. The skills include comprehension, vocabulary, grammar and writing.

Science:

For the first marking period students are working with the *Plant Growth and Development* kit. Students are observing the life cycle of the Brassica rapa (Wisconsin Fast Plants). They will learn that the life cycle includes germination, growth, development of special parts, and even death, with the promise of new life in the seed.

Social Studies:

Students are learning about the many cultures found in the United States. They are learning about immigrants, sharing cultures through stories, and cultures around the world. Ask them to explain how people change communities.

Keep signing the assignment book and reading log each night. Make sure your child has sharpened pencils and erasers each day.

Third Grade Teachers

Fourth Grade

Compliments all around! While walking through the halls and during classroom visits, the fourth grade groups are receiving compliments on their behavior and focus. These compliments

are a testament to what can be achieved when students, parents and teachers work towards a common goal. We'd like to thank you for your support.

Here are a few educational highlights by subject.

Math:

Unit 4 focuses on place value with decimals. It may be helpful to use dollar and cents notation to aid their understanding of greater, less, and equal. In Unit 5, we will continue to multiply with multi-digit numbers. Practice makes perfect, so keep practicing those basic facts. First in Math is a great way to have students brush up on their skills at home. Be sure to sign and return the tests.

Language Arts:

Students are reading and it shows. In class, students participate in a multitude of activities designed to enrich and strengthen their understanding. Each week they encounter several genres which spotlight on a central theme. One of the teachers' favorites was the one that highlighted women in sports. Ask your child if they can remember the story line for the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game?"

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series has an interactive website that can be accessed from home. Log on to www.macmillanmh.com to find information and activities for each story.

Science:

Did you know an ecosystem is a place that contains living and nonliving things? Both classes have been busy learning about interdependence. They built eco-columns with consumers and producers, in terrestrial and aquatic environments. Try saying that three times, fast!

Social Studies:

Pennsylvania is the focus for fourth grade. We will explore and discuss its history, geography and government. By the end of this year your child will be ready to run for Governor.

Each day is a gift. We don't always like the gift we are given but it's important to remember the thoughtfulness behind it.

Fifth Grade

Language Arts,

Everyday Math,

Science

Social Studies

And Health

Help our children construct minds of wealth!

Language Arts: We are continuing to read stories in our “Discoveries” unit. The following themes will be explored: Remembering the Past, The Caribbean Islands, and Cowboys and Cowgirls. The students will read stories focused around the theme and study related vocabulary words, phonics, comprehension skills, writing, grammar, and spelling. The skills we will work on while reading our theme passages are main idea & supporting details, making inferences & drawing conclusions, context clues, common & proper nouns.

Math: The students are working on Unit 3 & 4 which consists of: multiple division algorithms, finding distances on a map, and dividing decimals. Please continue to review basic multiplication facts with your child daily. Knowing these facts is crucial to learning new concepts in class. *Please continue to check your child’s math journal for any incomplete pages that may have been missed due to absences, as they are graded accordingly.*

Remember to use flashcards to help your child practice basic multiplication/DIVISION facts

Science: The 5th graders will continue their hands on approach working with the concepts of examining microscopic organisms. This is a very exciting unit for our young scientists and will be coming to an end by the 1st marking period. *Please look for a review guide to be sent home for the Microscopic Organisms Final that will be given at the end of the unit.*

Health: We have been stressing the concepts of responsibility, self esteem, bullying, and staying healthy. Students have been given in class activities as well as take-home. Please keep an eye open for these items as they come home.

The fifth grade team is pleased to have such an enthusiastic group of students to work with this year. We look forward to helping our students learn and grow as the rest of the school year progresses.

****Please check and sign your child’s homework book & fill out Reading Logs nightly****

Sixth Grade

Thank You

Thanks to all of the parents and guardians who came to visit our classrooms during American Education Week. It means a great deal to us and your child that you took the time to see learning in action! Your child's education is truly a team effort, and your support is a key ingredient to their success.

Parent Conferences

Thanks in advance for attending this meeting about your child's report card. Please be aware that we need to adhere to our twenty minute time allotment, as people may have time constraints, such as returning to work.

Curriculum Update

In math, we are currently in Unit 3 which involves a heavy dose of algebra and graphs. Look for your child to bring home their calculators and Student Reference Books to complete assignments. In November, we take the time to take another look into conflict resolution. Each class was asked to prepare a special lesson as a means to solve conflicts peacefully. Ask your child about this serious topic and how they could apply conflict resolution to their lives. As scientists, we are exploring magnets and motors. Ask your child about some of the fun hands-on experiments they performed. They should know how to set up a "fair test" to test their "hypothesis." In social studies, students will investigate this question: Why do empires rise and fall? This answer will be found as we gain knowledge on some of history's most famous empires found in Unit 2. Look for their textbooks to be coming home with corresponding homework sheets. In reading, we are currently in Unit 2. A major writing component of this unit is a persuasive essay. Be prepared for your child to be more convincing in their pleas to you for certain things.

Other Points of Interest

1. Make sure to have your child read for at least 20 minutes nightly!
2. Sign their Reading Log.
3. Check to make sure they are bringing home their assignment book.
4. Ask about daily lesson objectives.
5. Ask to see their Accelerated Reading scores from the library.

Thanks for your continued support!

Sixth Grade Teachers

Learning Support 4-5-6

Room 133- Janice Jedlinski

Our classroom has finally settled into all the new routines and procedures which makes Room 133 a classroom full of productivity. Our morning routine and classroom responsibilities have everyone performing a very necessary function. Just ask our botanist, marine life observer, computer technician or our organizational manager exactly what their job is and what happens if they fail to perform their responsibilities!

The Triumphs Reading program continually introduces us to new skills and strategies for becoming better readers and we are seeing some wonderful progress. It allows us to focus on our strengths and weaknesses so that we can put an extra effort in where it is needed. The computer based Compass Learning program also allows us to build upon our skills by completing assignments that particularly target areas for review. Tumble Books is fun too!

We have moved beyond our daily writing journals and are now delving into the realm of research and writing. We have chosen our research topics, found multiple resources, chosen the information that best represents our topic and have even begun writing and editing. The finished product should be completed soon and we look forward to presenting our newly found information.

The Promethean Active Board brings excitement and enthusiasm into our EveryDay Math Program. It enables us to be very interactive in exploring how to truly use what we are learning. Our focus has been on counting money and making change. Who doesn't love spending money?

We have found a common theme that allows us to study math, geography and language arts all at the same time and that theme is the Philadelphia Eagles! We love graphing the scores, mapping out the teams locations and developing a football vocabulary that rivals any football announcer. Stop by and see all our hard work on our football bulletin board.

We have many things to look forward to as the year progresses!

Learning Support – K-3

Mrs. Marshall

*Shapes, colors, and numbers....everywhere we go,
Letters, sounds, and words... things that we must know.*

We have been quite busy using the computer, promethean board, manipulatives, pocket charts and other cool tools to help us learn all of this and much more!

We are learning that math is all around us; not just at school but at home, too, and it's fun! For example, buttons and clocks are round, and so are circles! Lockers and beds have straight edges and some are rectangles. Rectangles are polygons, but not circles! The students are really engaged in shape exploration and enjoy the opportunity to use their templates and attribute blocks to create their own patterns and images.

We also continue to work with numbers which are also all around. Our morning routine allows us the opportunity to practice our counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s; number identification and calendar skills. And did you know that sometimes, we even do exercises when we count? We also continue to work on addition and subtraction math facts, time and money.

In reading, we are working on letter identification, sounds and syllables. Some of us are just learning how to put letters and sounds together, and others are reading words, sentences, and stories. All of the students are working on reading comprehension skills. They are becoming quite skilled at making predictions and inferences based upon pictures, personal experiences, and other clues. In one story, the children predicted that Goldilocks will never again walk by herself in a forest, and in another story, mole will always have a problem when it rains because he lives in a hole!

The children need to practice and want to show you what they learn in school. I encourage you to play an active role in your child's nightly homework. In addition to the written homework that comes home, please be mindful of flash cards, fact triangles, and other study strategies that come home in your child's daily folder. These should be studied every night. Finally, did you know that the key to learning how to read and how to become a good reader is to READ!! Reading is part of your child's daily homework. Make sure this is happening every day in your home. Let your child see you read, and most importantly, I encourage you to take time and read *with* your child. When you are done, record it on the monthly calendar and return it at the end of the month. Help your child become a better reader, and help Willow Hill meet our Reading Goal!

Mrs. Seslow

We are really having a great school year! The students are learning many new things in our classroom. In reading, we are practicing sounding out and blending many words. We are reading some great books, too! In math, we are working with adding and subtracting, telling time, money and much more. Please continue to work with your children to complete their homework assignments. This is one of the best ways to ensure success in school and a great time to bond with your children! I look forward to seeing each of you in December, when we meet for your child's Report Card Conference! To help your child do their best and boost those report card grades, I have included some test taking tips ☺

Test Taking Tips

- Be prepared. If your child is prepared and has thoroughly gone over the material he/she will experience far less stress while taking the test.
- Get a good night sleep, and don't cram. Brains don't function properly when they are sleep deprived.
- Take time to carefully read all directions. Many kids lose valuable test score points because they simply do not follow directions. Take the time and follow the test directions.
- Skip over questions you don't know. Kids should do the questions they know first, and then tackle the harder ones later. Getting a few early questions right helps to build confidence, which lessens stress. Also, in the event your child might run out of time, he/she will have at least gotten credit for all of the easier questions.
- Relax and take a deep breath. A bad grade on the test is not the end of the world. Encourage your child to do their best and not worry about the grades.

Mathematics

Learning is not something that only happens during the school day. Many math skills that students are taught in class need to be practiced and reinforced at home. Teachers assign homework that corresponds closely to work your student has done that day in school. By reviewing homework with your student, you can help him/her build fluency in math that is necessary for academic growth and success.

Here are a few homework tips for parents and students:

- Pick an area at home for your student to use as a special homework place.
- Have the necessary supplies ready, such as pencils, paper, ruler, protractor, calculator, etc.
- Keep distractions to a minimum.
- Check in with your student to monitor progress.
- Be supportive of effort.

Encouraging good study and homework habits now will pay off in the future as your student advances to junior high and high school and then on to college.

Title I

On November 18, 2010 at our Parent Meeting, we will look at online resources that can be used at home to help your child succeed academically. Also, mark your calendar for our January meeting which will focus on ways that you can help your child's developing reading and math skills in fun and creative ways.

Student's receiving Title I math support will soon be bringing home "Math in a Bag" game kit. The kit will not come home weekly, as it is assigned to a student per week. It includes games from our Everyday Mathematics program as well as the items needed to play the games. Most of the activities may already be familiar to your child as the games are played in class as well.

Students are encouraged to bring home their Student Reference Books every night to help answer questions that may arise when completing homework and studying for tests. The SRB can be a helpful resource for both students and parents as it gives detailed examples of the Everyday Mathematics approach to solving problems.

Resource Room

Students have been making steady progress in the areas of reading and writing. Many students have successfully completed weekly assessments with proficient marks. We continue to need improvement in comprehension skills and oral reading fluency. I have included some ways you can help your child with these skills during their required homework reading time.

Eight Steps to Guided Oral Reading

1. Look through the story and its illustrations together. Point out the different characters and objects pictured. Ask questions, such as "What is happening here?" "Why do you think the woman is doing that?" Encourage talk about the things in the pictures and what the story might be about.
2. Return to the beginning. Have your child read the title and begin reading out loud.
3. Let your child read independently as much as possible.
4. If your child has very little self-confidence, try reading alternately with them. For example, you read one sentence, and your child read the next one. You read a paragraph and then your child reads. As your child gains experience and confidence, read alternate pages.
5. Encourage your child to relate the illustrations to the text. Sometimes pictures will help your child to identify an unknown word.
6. After reading a story, ask your child to retell it in her/his own words.
7. Make reading together a pleasant social experience. Smile, talk, and laugh. Enjoy the story along with your child.

8. Compliment your child. After every session, let your child know that he/she did something well. (“This story had some hard words, but you read it well;” “When you read the wolf’s words, you sounded like a scary wolf yourself;” etc.)

Happy Reading!!!

Mrs. Grubb



Reading

The Pages for Progress Program is off and running! Many, many students have been reading nightly, filling up their calendars and counting up their pages. We challenged each student to read 400 or more pages in October and we are thrilled to report that 185 children reached that goal! All of their names were put into a raffle as part of our new PFP incentive program and a dozen winners were drawn to come pick a prize ranging from lunch with a teacher of their choice, to fancy pens, to books! Together our school read 195, 552 pages!! What an amazing start towards our one million pages goal!

Among all those dedicated readers were 118 students who also completed The Book Break Challenge. What's that you say? It's a rewards program put out by the Philadelphia 76ers asking students to read 760 pages by the end of October. Those that complete the challenge are awarded a complimentary ticket to a 76ers home game!! We are very excited that so many of our students rose to this challenge. We have submitted our winners' names to the 76ers and expect to receive more information from them within the next two weeks detailing how winners can send in for their free ticket!

Pages for Progress also rewarded the primary class (K-3rd) and the intermediate class (4th-6th) that read the most pages. Our two top classes, Mrs. Etlen's third grade and Mrs. White-Burroughs fourth grade, read an amazing 22, 958 and 20,309 pages respectively. WOW!! Those classes will each have a game party later this month!

Reading is rewarding in so many ways, whether you win a prize or not. Books offer a way to visit new places, or enjoy characters just like you. And research has repeatedly shown that reading leads to success both in and out of school. So encourage your child to keep on reading, fill up the November PFP calendar and grow, grow, grow!

From The Art Room

Mr. Shelton's classes will study and create art projects related to Dia des Les Muertos, the Day of the Dead; A family celebration of loved ones and ancestors who have died. The entire fourth through sixth grade classes will participate in art activities learning about the culture Oaxacans, Mexican, and other related Hispanic cultures.

Mrs. Zar is helping to make sure that kindergarteners know their shapes! Her fifth grade class is learning drawing techniques with chalk pastel and the sixth grade class will create an animal picture out of clay and paint. Mrs. Zar's fourth grade class will learn about Pennsylvania Dutch Hex signs and create them using compasses.

Mr. Shelton and Mrs. Zar

MUSIC



Throughout November and December, our Kindergarten through third grade classes will continue to practice the basics of reading and singing music. The second and third graders, in particular, are focused on reading rhythmic notation and identifying the notes Do, Re, Mi, So and La. The fourth through sixth graders will begin to use these basics to start to figure out how music works and how it's organized. The fourth through sixth grades are also focusing on identifying notes on the staff using the treble clef. Don't forget that our Winter Concert will be December 15 at 1:30 pm. Remember: if your child is performing, he or she will need a white top and black bottoms. Parents are invited to come and support our performing groups. We're looking forward to singing and playing for everyone.

Physical Education

We are off to a healthy, productive, and energetic start to physical education class. The students are enjoying themselves and working hard to learn the fundamentals and rules of a variety of individual and team sports.

Kindergarten: Stretching and jogging; soccer; football; tag games; relay races

1st-2nd Grades: Stretching and jogging; soccer; football; tag games; relay races

3rd-4th grades: Stretching and jogging; soccer; football; tag games; relay races; kickball

5th-6th Grades: Stretching and jogging; soccer; football; tag games; relay races; kickball

Enjoy Thanksgiving Break! Remember to exercise on a daily basis.

Sincerely,
Mr. Godfrey

Service Learning

Thank you to all the families who donated food for The Breathing Room Foundation's Thanksgiving Food Drive. The families are very appreciative of Willow Hill's kindness and generosity during this holiday season.

Please continue to encourage your child to participate in activities and provide service in the community. Also, remind your child to keep track of their Service Learning hours on their log. If they need a new log, please tell them to ask Mrs. Lee or Mrs. Doctor. You can also print a service learning log from the Abington School website.