

January 8, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

### **Around Willow Canyon**

We need your help. The bus drivers told us today that there are parents parking in the staff parking lot and walking around the buses. The people driving the buses are trying to be careful and watch as they navigate through the staff **parking lot**. They are not anticipating pedestrians with students in this area. We don't have a cross walk in this area either. We keep the parent parking lot and staff parking lot separated on purpose so the buses aren't where people are walking and there is a more contained flow of traffic with student safety as the priority. Please help us with this so that all of the children are where they are anticipated to be and safe.

The State of Utah requires the Utah State Board of Education to prepare a report card for each school in the state. They use results from the SAGE language arts, math, and science tests for student proficiency and a formula for measuring student growth. They also look at school demographics and absenteeism. **The Deseret News released a story in December listing the top twenty schools in the state, Willow Canyon is listed as the fourth highest school in the State of Utah.** We are the highest in Canyons District with our overall score of 81% that is based on student proficiency and growth. This is the result of having great teachers! We are also fortunate to be able to keep our class sizes manageable. Willow Canyon teachers work in grade level teams and also in what we call a vertical team to align the core learning from kindergarten through fifth grade. We provide additional support, interventions for students in reading and math through what we call Tier 2 instruction. This is time students spend during center learning activities with an interventionist in a small group to receive additional skill focused instruction. This is not simple tutoring, it's specific, additional instruction that aligns with what the teacher is teaching in class to help fill in the gaps. The Interventionists who provide this instruction collaborate with the teachers and our achievement coach to plan instruction. We also have an enrichment assistant who works to provide the Battle of the Books for third grade through fifth grade. Students read a list of books through the school year and then compete in March to see who can answer the most questions correctly. Other enrichment activities

are Story Weavers, celebrating the tradition of oral story telling and Monster Math where students work in teams to solve challenging math problems. These activities are available for all students to help them build confidence and to challenge them. We have also started debate in fifth grade. Willow Canyon teachers have high expectations for all students and work very hard to help them be successful, our school rating is the result of their expertise and work. We are able to provide this type of student focused support due to LAND Trust funding. This is additional funding generated from school trust lands. We work with our School Community Council to determine the best way to use this funding. We rely on this funding to help us meet the individual instructional needs of our students. This is a link to the Deseret News article.

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900006388/grading-utah-schools-2017-20-highest-scoring-elementary-and-secondary-schools.html>

This is the link to the Utah LAND Trust website if you would like more information.  
<http://www.schoollandtrust.org/>

Our focus for the month is having a positive attitude. We will be learning about this during the month and encouraging the students to maintain a positive attitude, even when school work is hard. Learning new concepts can be challenging, and also very rewarding. Providing encouragement at home helps students build confidence and maintain a positive attitude about their studies. Thank you for everything you do to support your children here at school and at home.

## **PTA and SCC News**

### **PTA newsletter**

<https://willowcanyon.canyonsdistrict.org/index.php/pta>

Meeting dates for School Community Council (SCC) are below, all meeting are in the conference room.

- October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM – the minutes are attached to the SCC page on our website.
- November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM- the minutes are attached to the SCC page on our

website.

- January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM- this meeting has been canceled, we plan to meet on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>
- February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM
- March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM
- April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

Web address for Internet safety information.

<https://www.common sense media.org/video/advice/digital-citizenship>

**Have a great week!**

**Marilyn Williams**

### **Important Dates**

**Save the date!**

- **Parent, teacher** conferences are on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 PM until 8:00 PM.
- **March 1, 2018, is Grandparent/Family day at the book fair.** We have done this annually and really enjoy it! Come eat lunch with your student and then go to the book fair.
  - All family members need to go through the process of **registering as a volunteer** because they will be eating in the cafeteria with students. **This process must be completed.** Go to the link below to register if you haven't already and ask family members to do this before coming to school. It can take up to three days to get these approved, please complete it before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Policy requires this to be completed before participating in activities involving students here at school, if this has not been completed we can't allow family members to eat with the students.
  - <https://foundation.canyonsdistrict.org/index.php/volunteer>
  - The schedule for lunches is listed below. The time students are in the cafeteria eating is for the first 10 to 15 minutes of the scheduled lunch time.

- All day kindergarten – 12:15 until 12:55 PM
- First grade – 11:30 until 12:10 PM
- Second grade – 11:45 until 12:25 PM
- Third grade – 11:55 until 12:35 PM
- Fourth grade – 11:20 until 12:00 PM
- Fifth Grade – 12:10 until 12:50 PM

**January is perfect attendance month!**

**Please register to be a volunteer before helping with a field trip or in classrooms. Approval of the application may take up to three days. We are unable to allow anyone who hasn't completed this process to help with student activities.**

**Volunteer link** <https://foundation.canyonsdistrict.org/index.php/volunteer>

Wednesday, January 10

- PTA meeting at 10:00 AM.

Thursday, January 11

- School Community Council at 6:00 PM in the conference room.

Friday, January 12

- Ice cream party for Reflections participants – thank you for your entries!

Monday, January 15

- No school, Martin Luther King day

Friday, January 19

- No school, student grading day

Tuesday, February 6

- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Living Planet Aquarium van visit, they are coming to the school

Wednesday, February 7

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade Water Van presentation
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade going to Eastmont Middle School for 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation
- PTA meeting at 10:00 AM in the conference room

Thursday, February 8

- SCC meeting at 6:00 PM in the conference room

Monday, February 12

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade going to the Symphony, students wear more formal attire

Wednesday, February 14

- Valentines Day

Friday, February 16

- Students do not attend school, it's a teacher data day

Monday, February 19

- No school, President's Day

Thursday, February 22

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the University of Utah's engineering program

Tuesday, February 27

- The Book Fair student preview

Wednesday, February 28

- Parent teacher conferences, the book fair open from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 1

- Parent, teacher conferences, the book fair open from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM
- **Grandparent/Family Day, come eat lunch with your children and go to the book fair from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM.**

- All family members need to go through the process of **registering as a volunteer** because they will be eating in the cafeteria with students. **This process must be completed.** Go to the link below to register if you haven't already and ask family members to do this before coming to school. It can take up to three days to get these approved, please complete it before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Policy requires this to be completed before participating in activities involving students here at school, **if this has not been completed** we can't allow family members to eat with the students.

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Friday, March 2

- No school, comp day for parent conferences

## Daily School Schedule

### First grade through Fifth Grade Schedule:

- The first bell rings at 8:15 a.m. and the tardy bell rings at 8:20 a.m., school gets

out at 2:55 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

- The schedule for Friday is from 8:20 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.
- **Supplemental Kindergarten** follows the school's schedule for first grade through fifth grade.

#### **Kindergarten Schedule:**

- The AM session is 8:20 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday. The schedule for Friday is 8:20 a.m. until 10:20 a.m.
- The PM session is 12:15 p.m. until 2:55 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The schedule for Friday is 11:15 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.

The link below takes you to the CSD website and information about heavy snow days and possible school schedule changes due to dangerous storm conditions.

<http://www.canyonsdistrict.org/district-news/item/4145-snow-day-csd-s-snow-closure-guidelines>

## **Winter Information from Canyons School District**

**SNOW DAYS:** If the forecast holds, wintry weather is expected to roll into Salt Lake this week the end of preparing our community for snow storms, here is a guide to how Canyons District communicate information about cancelled or delayed-start days as a result of dangerous traveling conditions during the frigid months. Please remember: Unless extreme weather creates unsafe traveling conditions, schools operating under the Canyons District umbrella will remain open scheduled school days.

**Why keep schools open during snowstorms?** Our 34,000 students count on us to deliver a quality education in a safe, welcoming environment. Unscheduled school closures disrupt learning and place a burden on parents who work full time and can't easily be home to supervise their children. Neighborhood schools also are a primary source of breakfast and lunch for many of our students.

**What if I'd prefer to keep my child home?** While school-closure decisions will be made in the best interest of a school community, the District respects the rights of parents and guardians to decide what's best for children in their care.

**How will I know if school is canceled or delayed?** Canyons District has established the following communications policies in the event of a school closure:

**Announcements and information:** Canyons District will employ its website, the

Skylert emergency-communication system, and [Facebook](#) and Twitter (@canyonsdistrict) to alert parents about school closures. Parents and employees should listen to Wasatch Front radio and television stations for school-closure information.

**What we will tell you:** The District will communicate one of three messages: 1) Day and date a school is closed; 2) Day and date a school is starting late; 3) and day and date schools will be dismissed.

**Telephones:** Families are encouraged to call the District Office at 801-826-5000 for the latest decisions on school closures due to inclement weather. Please be patient, as the District Office may experience a high volume of phone calls on these days. Parents also may call their child's school.

**Who will make the announcement:** School closures will be announced when authorized by the Canyons Superintendent of Schools or his designee after consulting with senior staff members. The [National Weather Service](#) and other state, county and city agencies also may be consulted.

**Closures are for one day only:** All announcements are for one day only. *No announcement means schools will be open and operate as usual.*

**Emergency plans:** Families are encouraged to establish an emergency plan for their children in the event that schools are closed, have a delayed start or dismissed early. Parents are urged to instruct their children where to go or what to do if a parent is not at home.

**Bus stops:** Parents are asked to meet their children at bus stops when buses are running on delayed or emergency schedules.

**Make-up days:** Days lost because of inclement weather are made up on Washington and Lincoln Day Recess days or during Spring Recess.