WILLIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

#schoolofexcellence August 28, 2026 #willisbestschoolever

MESSAGE FROM MRS. JADID

What a fantastic start to the school year! Our students have jumped right into learning, building friendships, and creating a positive school community. We are so proud of the enthusiasm, kindness, and hard work we've seen throughout this first month of school.

A special thank you to all of our families who attended Open House. Your involvement and support make a tremendous difference and help strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Together, we are setting the stage for a successful and exciting year ahead. We look forward to many more moments of growth, achievement, and celebration!











MEET YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Mrs. Morales oversees MTSS, S.504, testing, and K-Kids. She also does small group and individual counseling for grades 3-5.

Mrs. Van oversees ESOL and provides Life Skills lessons, small group, and individual counseling for grades K-2.

UPCOMING

- August 31-Sept. 3- K-5 PM1 FAST ELA testing
- Sept. 7- Labor Day- schools closed
- Sept. 8-17- K-5 PM1 FAST Math testing
- Sept. 18- All Pro Dads
- Sept. 21-25- Bookfair
- Sept. 24- Literacy Book Night, ESOL Parent Night
- Sept. 25- Early Release @ 1pm, Dress Down
- Sept. 29- PTO meeting 9am, SAC meeting 5pm
- Oct. 2- Early Release 1pm
- Oct. 9- End of Quarter 1
- Oct 12- Record Day- no school for students
- Oct. 16- All Pro Dads

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NEWS FROM PRE-K

We've had a wonderful start to our year in Pre-K! We've been busy getting to know one another and building our classroom family while learning our daily routines and procedures. Our learning has focused on All About Me, exploring shapes, and developing important social-emotional skills like sharing, taking turns, expressing our feelings, and being a kind friend. We are so proud of how quickly our little learners are settling in, making friends, and becoming confident members of our Pre-K family!





NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has had a wonderful first month of school! We have enjoyed meeting new friends, learning classroom routines and expectations, and settling into our daily schedule. Students had a great time getting to know one another through our "All About Me" sharing bags. We are also learning the importance of being kind and caring for friends through "How to Fill a Bucket." In addition, we have been discussing the concept of the "Magical Yet," which teaches us that even if we cannot do something right now, we may not be able to do it yet. With practice, perseverance, and a positive attitude, we can continue to learn and grow!





NEWS FROM 1ST GRADE

We have had a wonderful start to the school year! Our first graders have been learning and practicing our classroom rules and routines, making new friends, and reconnecting with familiar ones. In reading, we have reviewed the letters and their sounds from kindergarten and are excited to begin diving into our UFLI Foundations program. In math, we have been building our addition and subtraction fact fluency and strengthening our number sense. We are off to a great start and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and lots of fun!



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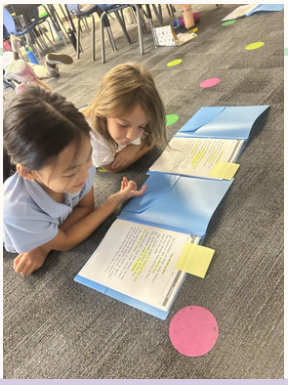
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News from 3rd Grade

We are so excited to welcome our third graders back to school! The beginning of the year is a special time as students get to know one another, learn classroom expectations, and settle into daily routines. This month, we will focus on creating a positive learning environment where every child feels safe, valued, and ready to learn. Please be sure to check folders and Class Dojo regularly for important updates. We can't wait for a fantastic year of learning and growth!

NEWS FROM 2ND GRADE

Second grade at Willis is off to a fantastic start! After spending the first few weeks building strong routines and classroom communities, our second graders are now diving into learning across all subject areas. In ELA, we are learning 2 new phonics concepts weekly through the UFLI program. Also, in our reading block, we started our first unit, "Plants and Animals in Their Habitats." The students are learning to identify and use context clues to understand new words. They are also identifying text features and explaining how these features help readers better understand the text. (photo: two students from Ms. Snyder's class practicing in their Repeated Reading folders.)
In writing, our second graders are reviewing how to incorporate the conventions of writing (capital letters, punctuation) into complete sentences in response to their reading about a given topic. Our first writing unit is expository essays.
In math, students are learning how to fluently add and subtract numbers with sums to 20. Students are then using these learned strategies to help solve addition and subtraction word problems. For social studies, we are studying citizenship, and in science, we are learning how scientists think and what tools they use. (photo: Mrs. O'Donnell's class was excited to receive their new social studies workbooks.)









News from 4th Grade

Welcome to the start of an incredible fourth grade year! Fourth grade is an exciting time of growth and discovery. Here are some tips to help your student be a successful fourth grader:

- Complete homework
- Sign student agendas daily
- Stay connected with your child's teachers

In Math we are studying place value and learning to read, write, compare, and round multi-digit numbers.

In English Language Arts we are identifying the narrator's point of view and learning how specific text details support and build a central idea.

Let's make this fourth grade year the best one yet!

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NEWS FROM 5TH GRADE

Fifth grade has had a wonderfully collaborative start to the new school year, working together to solve puzzles and challenges while practicing communication skills! As we dive into the curriculum, students will not only learn to do new things but develop the ability to explain their thinking to others!

One big theme of the fifth grade year is "responsibility." We love hearing from former families whose children are absolutely thriving in middle school! They are thrilled to report that their children were more than prepared to take the next big step- not only academically, but in terms of personal responsibility and work habits as well. We are starting this process by expecting students to write important information in their agendas each morning and pass that information along to you. We also encourage them to select challenging and stimulating material for reading at home (at least thirty minutes nightly) and are happy to provide plenty of recommendations! As always, we are available by email or phone whenever questions arise!





GRAND OPENING THE GECKO GROVE SEPTEMBER 9TH

WE CAN'T WAIT TO UNVEIL OUR NEW PARENT LUNCH AREA! THANK YOU TO OUR PTO AND PARENT VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND SUPPORT IN CREATING THIS WELCOMING SPACE FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.
CLICK BELOW TO SIGN UP.





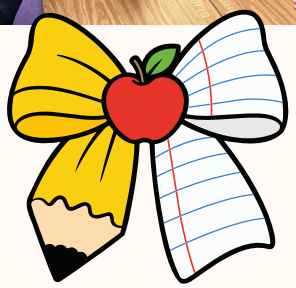
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CLICK HERE

Pikmykid

POWERED BY CENTEGIX

To make daily, weekly, or monthly changes, please see steps below:
Step 1: Open the app and select your child.
Step 2: To make daily, weekly or monthly changes, on that same screen, scroll down and select more options and then create pickup.
Step 3: Choose the date and select whether it is a one-time change or a recurring change (weekly, monthly).
Step 4: Select the mode change(car, walker, afterschool club etc.) and select who is picking up (you or someone else). If it's someone else, make sure you have them added as a contact in the app and they have the Pikmykid number.
Step 5: Confirm the change chosen and set it to.
All dismissal changes have to be made in the Pikmykid app before 2:45 pm.



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KONA ICE

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