



WILLOW DRIVE ELEMENTARY

26 Willow Drive / Sumter, SC 29150

(803) 773-5796



**Newsletters
January 2026**



January 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Willow Drive Elementary			1 Winter Holiday No School	2 Winter Holiday No School	3
4	5 Teacher Workday/ No School: Students	6 Students Return/ 1st Day of 3rd Quarter	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday No School	20 100th Day of School/Kona Ice	21 Report Cards Issued	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Awards Day K-5th	29	30	31

From Nurse Davis:

We kindly remind families of the importance of keeping children home when they are sick. Sending a child to school with symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, or sore throat can delay their recovery and increase the spread of illness to classmates and staff. Students who are not feeling well are also less able to focus and learn. Keeping your child home until they are symptom-free helps protect the health of everyone and ensures your child can return to school ready to learn.

It is also very important that your child has a working, up-to-date emergency contact on file so we can reach someone quickly if your child becomes ill at school.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school community healthy and safe.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We have an important announcement to share with everyone in our Willow Drive Elementary school community.

Any changes in student transportation home must be made prior to 1:30 pm daily to ensure smooth communication and coordination during afternoon dismissal. Our goal is to get everyone dismissed safely and correctly. Again, please call the front office before 1:30 pm to notify us if your child will be taking an alternate route home.

Your prompt attention and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

-WDE Administrators





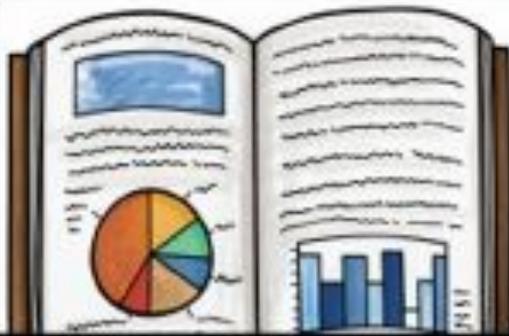
We Want You All Day, Every Day!



Parents, did you know that to earn a Perfect Attendance Certificate, your child must be present at school all day, every day? Did you also know that students can only miss 10 days of school the entire school year?

In grades PreK-5th, students are tardy if they are not in their classroom by 7:35 a.m. Let us work together by making sure our students are present every day and ready to learn!

Please note: The front office cannot release students after 1:30 p.m.



Classroom NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

Upcoming EVENTS

January 6th
Students Return

January 19th
Dr. King Holiday
(No School)

January 20th
100th Day of School
Kona Ice!

January 21st
Report Cards Issued

January 28th
Awards Day!

OUR LEARNING

PRE-SCHOOL

Focus

January 6th Compare and Contrast (Opposites)
(Letter: m, b, s, k Math: Measurement Science: Push and Pull)

January 12th Under Construction
(Letters W, C, J, R Math: Shape: Parallel Lines Science: Blends)

January 19th Tools
(Letters H, A, G Math: Non-standard Units of Measurement, Science: Machines)

January 26th I Can Imagine
(Letters Q, U, Y Math: Transforming Shapes Science: Construction)

Practice AT HOME

Count to 100 everyday!
Write Your name daily!
Read Everyday!

Specials SCHEDULE

January 19th
No School!

January 28th
Awards Day!

Reminders

- Please complete all homework assignments!
- Please return folders daily!
- Please read everyday!

CONTACT INFO



Kindergarten News

WDE Title One



January

Classroom

We hope you enjoyed a restful winter break and are excited for all the learning and fun ahead. This month, we'll be diving into new skills, celebrating growth, and starting the new year with curiosity and joy.

ELA:

Please take the unit reading books that come home periodically and find the 3 decodable stories in each and have your child practice reading those many times.

Letters: Ff, Rr, Bb, Ll, Kk

Sight Words: with, he, is, little, she, was, are

Skills: rhyming words and syllable count

Story Elements: character and settings, problem and solutions. Plot: beginning, middle, and end of story

Math:

Subtraction using part-part-whole method.

Addition review

Continue to practice counting by 1's to 100, counting by 10's to 100, and counting backwards from 10 to 1.

Reminders

Don't forget:

Send labeled water bottles.

Wear sneakers to PE.

Turn in homework according to your child's teacher.

January Dates:

6th- Students Return

19th- No School: MLK Holiday

20th- 100th Day of School and Kona Ice

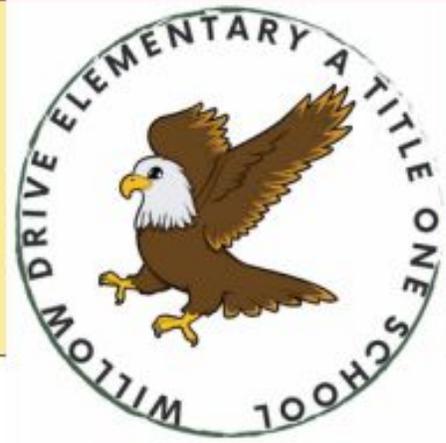
21st- Report Cards

28th- Awards Day

“You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.” Dr. Seuss

GRADE 1

newsletter



JANUARY

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

LITERACY

We are reading and learning about fantasy as well as fables and poetry. We will also work on opinion and expository writing

NUMERACY

In math we are focusing the meanings of addition and subtraction,

PHONICS

This month we are focusing on long vowel teams and the letter y. We are also decoding and encoding multisyllabic words

COMING UP

JANUARY 6TH

Students Return

JANUARY 19TH

No School

JANUARY 20TH

100th Day of School

JANUARY 21ST

Report Cards

JANUARY 28TH

Awards Day

REMINDERS

Please make sure that your student brings their folders and a backpack to school every day :)

2ND GRADE NEWSLETTER

WILLOW DRIVE ELEMENTARY

HOME OF THE SOARING EAGLES



Student Spotlight

All 2nd grade students have been working hard on being a team. We are working on teamwork in the classroom and other areas of school.



Academic Spotlight

Learning Together, Growing Stronger

Welcome back, Eagles! We hope everyone had a safe and fun Winter Break! We are entering our next to last quarter of second grade so we are learning new skills and reviewing, reviewing, reviewing! In reading we will be starting off strong with reviewing informational text, author's purpose, text features, and r-Controlled vowels. In writing, we will be wrapping up our last narrative pieces before jumping into opinion writing. In math we will be moving on to measurement and learning how to estimate and compare lengths. We are so excited to be back and we are ready to work hard in these last two quarters. We're proud of our progress and growth so far! Second Grade is ready to keep shining bright at Willow Drive!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Q3 Starts**
January 6th
- * **No School**
January 19th
- * **Report Cards**
January 21st



Important Reminders

- Make sure you are checking Homework Folders daily
- Sign and return any paperwork your student's teacher has sent home
- Sign up for SchoolStatus Connect
- Bring a non-leaking water bottle daily
- Turn in all homework assignments on their due date

**DON'T!
FORGET!**

January 2026 Class News



Teacher: Third Grade Team

Date: January 6, 2026

Learning Focus

Reading: Expository Text and Poetry

Math:

*Fraction Equivalence and Comparison

*Use Multiplication to Divide

Science: Life Cycles and Inherited Traits

Social Studies: Natural Disasters

Mark Your Calendar

6th: Students Return

19th: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Holiday/No School

20th: Kona Ice

21st: Report Cards

28th: Awards Day (1st-5th)

Reminders

Students should be completing reading and math homework each day.

Students should read independently for at least twenty minutes each day for homework.

Students will need to wear sneakers for PE

Students will need a warm jacket on colder days for recess.

Happy New Year!

Willow Drive Elementary Title 1
School

Thank you for all your help and support.

We need kleenex and disinfecting wipes if you are able to donate.

Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Hodge, Mrs.
Johnson, and Mrs. Bautista

Fourth Grade Newsletter

Willow Drive Title 1:

January 2026

Important Dates :

- o Jan 6, 2026 -School resumes
- o Jan 19, 2026 -Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL
- o Jan 20, 2026- 100th Day of School/Kona Ice
- o Jan 21, 2026 -Report Cards Issued
- o Jan 26, 2026 Awards Day K-5th

Helpers Needed:

- All teachers are asking that you donate any of the following: ream of copy paper, hand sanitizer, pencils, loose-leaf and Facial tissue.

Academics:

ELA: making inferences, describing characters, settings, and events, compare and contrast point of view

Math: Adding and Subtraction Fraction

Social Studies: Westward Expansion

Science: Shaping Landforms

For Academic Enrichment :

- Edmentum
- IXL.Com-Reading
- Engageny.com

January Birthdays:

January 5-Alyssa Pacheco

January 14-Jace Mcknight

January 21-Tinleigh King

January 23-Heeya Patel

January 26-Kyriah Nelson



Willow Drive

5th Grade Newsletter

🎯 What We Are Learning

ELA:

We will be working on argumentative writing, character perspective, and continuing figurative language.

Math:

We will be spending all month focused on fractions.

Science

We will be describing how organisms interact with their environment.

Social Studies

We will be looking into immigration and how it affected the American economy.

HELPFUL HINTS



**READ EVERYWHERE
BOOST VOCABULARY
MASTER MATH
BE AN ACTIVE LISTENER
PLAN AHEAD**

Month of

January

Dates to Know

Jan. 6 STUDENTS RETURN

Jan. 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL

Jan. 20 - KONA ICE

Jan. 21: - REPORT CARDS

At Home Practice

READ READ AND READ SOME MORE!

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO USE FRACTIONS IN EVERY DAY TASKS!





Related Arts



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

PE - Coach Jacobs

It's the beginning of the new year! We are going to put our New Year's Resolution to the test. By doing a new unit with Soccer. So don't forget your tennis shoes!



Music - Mrs. Bettinger

Our young musicians will be working on learning to read notes on the treble clef! Students are practicing identifying line and space notes and applying their skills during music games and activities. They're growing more confident each week!

Library - Mrs. Robinson

Happy New Year, families! I hope your winter break was restful, joy-filled, and full of great stories—whether read, listened to, or shared aloud. January is the perfect time to develop strong reading habits. In library classes, we will continue to search for “just-right” books, build stamina as independent readers, find different genres, and ask good questions while reading to deepen comprehension. Please continue to support your child's reading journey.

STEAM - Ms. Terry

Happy New Year STEAM Scientists! January is a perfect time for fresh ideas, creative challenges, and curious questions. This month in the STEAM Lab, we're kicking off the year with hands-on projects that spark imagination and build confidence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and math.

Art - Mrs. Gaulke

Just like a new blanket of sparkling white snow, we are starting a brand new year! I want to challenge students to keep up the great artwork they are creating. Kindergarten through second grade will be creating snowy paintings that glitter and sparkle. Third through 5th grade will be creating and painting three-dimensionally. All classes will be experimenting with different textures and new art materials. In this new year, and new quarter, remember to keep doing your best in your work and your behavior! Each class is going for that next "Good Note" in Art. Let's continue to sparkle and shine with great behavior in Art!

