Willow Wolverine Newsletter

November 2026

Read with your kids every day!

Brian Porcello, Principal
Michael Wright, Administrative Assistant
907-495-9301



Principal's Message



Willow Elementary Families,

We're well into the second quarter and we have hit our stride! You're kids should be reading at home each evening and working on their math fact fluency. Thank you to our awesome staff for their hard work and dedication to our students. We hope your kids are coming home with a smile!

Sincerely,
Mr. Porcello
907-495-9302



School Day Start Times

- Doors open at 8:40 AM every Monday
- Doors open at 8:10 AM Tuesday through Friday
- Students go directly to the gym upon arrival if they want to eat breakfast
- 8:45 AM-9:00 AM every Monday
- 8:15 AM-8:30 AM Tuesday through Friday
- Students not eating breakfast at school will go directly to their classroom
- Willow Elementary will not serve breakfast after 10:00 AM Monday through Friday
- Every school day ends at 3:00 PM



Willow Elementary PTA

Our PTA is an important part of Willow Elementary student and community support. Come to the next PTA meeting starting at 3:30 PM on Monday, November 9th in the library and join the fun:) We hope to see you there!

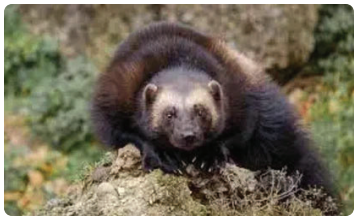
Thanks very much to the PTA for a wonderful Fall Festival. It was great to see all of the smiling kids and families from the community.

Title 1 Family Math Night & Chili Cook-Off



Join us on Wednesday, November 18 from 5-7PM! We're bringing back this popular event and look forwrd to seeing you there! Teachers and staff will be hosting math games and every student gets to bring home a math game. The Willow/Caswell Fire Department will be judging various chili categories by 6:15 PM.

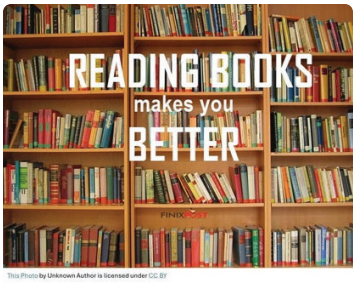
A big thank you to the Willow/Caswell Fire Department for their continued support of our school.



Thank You Willow Lion's Club!

Thank you to the Willow Lion's Club for your tremendous support over the years. From Family Skate Night to supporting Salmon In the Classroom and so much more; you make a lasting difference for the children of Willow, Alaska.

Willow Elementary Reading Initiative



The Independent Reading Initiative continues into the 2026-27 school year! We want your kids to actively read in "Just Right" Books all year long. Make sure you and your kids make time to read together for at least 20-30 minutes a day. It's a great way to spend some quality time together! The more you read, the more you know! We will celebrate independent readers during quarterly schoolwide assemblies.

How to Choose "Just Right" Books:

Too Easy!
Have you read it lots of times before?
Do you understand the story very well?
Do you know almost every word?
Can you read it smoothly?

Just Right!
Is the book new to you?
Do you understand a lot of the story?
Are there just a few words on each page you don't know?
When you read, are some places smooth and some choppy?

Too Hard!
Are there more than 5 words on a page you don't know?
Are you confused about what is happening in this book?

When you read, does it sound pretty choppy?

The more you read the more you know

Student Drop-Off & Pick-Up

- Students must be dropped off at the car/drop-off line during morning arrival. Parents/guardians can then park and enter the building as needed.
- Students must be picked up from the gym via the car/pick-up line during dismissal. Parents can then park and enter the building with their kids under their supervision.
- Please call by 2:30 PM if you are picking up your student or another person is picking up for you, this allows us to ensure proper communication to the classroom and pick-up line.
- Reminder - Only parents/legal guardians are allowed to call in any changes to a student(s) pick up status.
- Any changes to the emergency contact list can be made via Parentvue by legal guardians.

Reminder - Only parents/guardians and emergency contacts are allowed to pickup students at school.

Busing/Bus Passes

- Please call by 2:30 PM if a bus pass is needed for your student, this allows us to ensure proper communication to the classroom and bus drivers.
- Any student walking unsupervised to and from the bus stop must have written permission on file at the school office.

Reminder - Only parents/guardians and emergency contacts are allowed to pickup students at the bus stop.

Winter Concert: Friday, Dec 4 at 1PM

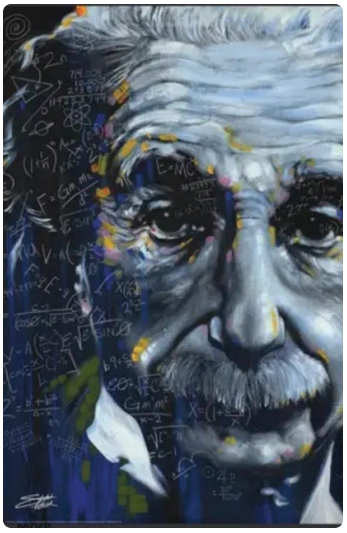


It's not too early to put the Winter Concert on your calendar! Mrs. Korpi and the kids are working on a wonderful performance for your enjoyment. Happy Holidays!



Willow Elementary Math Masters

Ask your child if he or she is a Willow Elementary Math Master. Your kids should work on their math fact fluency every day throughout the school year. Mastery in math facts lays the foundation for success in mathematics.



WLE Title 1 Information

Title 1 information is always available on the district website and in our front foyer. You can always stop in or call the school with any questions. Our Title 1 program is funded by the federal government to help with student achievement and success.

Free and Reduced Breakfast & Lunch

- Families must apply to see if their child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. Just Click the link below:
- **https://www.matsuk12.us/business-departments/nutrition-services/free-reduced-application**
- Applications may be submitted at any point during the school year. Apply now to avoid any unnecessary charges.
- Students will not be denied a meal due to insufficient funds; however, charges will continue to accumulate on meal accounts unless parents notify us that they do not want their child charging meals.
- Families will receive weekly email reminders if there is a negative balance on their student's account.

Did you know, students who qualify for Migrant Ed status will also qualify for free breakfast and lunch as well as other Migrant Ed services. Qualifying for Migrant Ed status is not based on income. Check the district website to see if your family qualifies for Migrant Ed.



Fresh Fruit Friday

Every Friday Willow Elementary students will have a chance to try a unique fresh fruit or vegetable courtesy of nutrition services. Look for a flyer with information on what was served or brought home each Friday. Thanks to our wonderful PTA for helping to make this possible.

Healthy Futures Challenge



The Healthy Futures Challenge is up and running at Willow Elementary thanks to our PE teacher Mrs. Korpi. Children must show at least 60 minutes of physical activity during a day, for a least 15 days of the month. We are counting time in PE and recess. If your child is outside participating in any physical activity after school or on the weekends, be sure they are documenting this on their Healthy Futures Log distributed each month. Get outside and get some exercise!

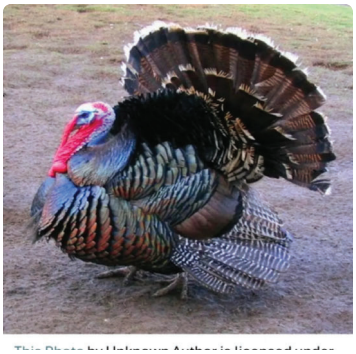


Grade 4/5 Boys & Girls Basketball

Girls and Boys basketball continues through the end of November with Coach Shull and Coach Mitchell. Enjoy the season Wolverines!

All the best at the Boys and Girls Jamborees coming up later this month!

Important Dates



- Nov 9: PTA Meeting at 3:30 PM
- Nov 11: No School in Obsrevance of Veteran's Day
- Nov 20: Lion's Club Family Skate Night 5-7PM
- Nov 18: Family Math Night & Chili Cook-Off 5-7PM
- Nov 26 & 27: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 4: Winter Concert 1PM
- Dec 17: End of Semester 1/Quarter 2

Special Thanks To Our Community Partners:



- Newman's
- Valley Fuel
- Alaska Fireplace
- Willow Caswell Fire Department
- Willow Equipment Rental
- Willow Lions Club
- Three Bears at Pittman Rd
- Willow Museum
- QAP/COLASKA
- Willow Elementary PTA
- Willow Food Pantry
- Alaska State Troopers
- Willow CERT
- Sunshine Clinic



School Information

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