




WEEKLY NEWSLETTER,  
December 7, 2018

<p><b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b></p> <p><b>December 24<sup>th</sup>-January 4<sup>th</sup></b> Winter Break No School</p> <p><b>Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup></b> Classes Resume</p> <p><b>Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup></b> Family Education Night in Library Topic: Navigating Social Media 6:30</p> <p><b>Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup></b> Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday No School</p> <p><b>Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup></b> Parent Council in Library Topic: Local Control and Accountability Plan 6:30</p> <p><b>February 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup></b> Mid-winter Break No School</p> <p><b>Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup></b> Parent Council in Library Topic: STEAM Lab and Maker Space 6:30</p> <p><b>Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup></b> WCA Spring Gala and Auction Event at IDESST Hall in Sausalito 5:00</p>	<p><b>A Message from Ms. Seekins</b></p> <p>Dear Willow Creek families,</p> <p>Please join me in congratulating fourth grade teachers Jennifer Carrade and Adrienne Thompson on earning their National Board Certification! Working as a team, Jennifer and Adrienne took on several months of intensive professional development that culminated in a challenging board examination this year.</p> <p>A teacher attempting National Board Certification can expect to spend his or her weekends and holidays studying and preparing a portfolio of teaching videos, lesson plans, and analytical essays. Speaking from my own experience, I can tell you that this process is rigorous and requires a significant commitment both in and out of the classroom!</p> <p>Our team identifies strongly as a professional learning community; we love leading each other and sharing our expertise. I am delighted that the Willow Creek community has had the opportunity to support Adrienne and Jennifer in this incredibly powerful form of professional development, and I know that our students will benefit from their excellent work.</p> <p>Best,  Tara</p>
	<p><b>Attendance Report</b></p> <p>Average Daily Attendance this week: 94% Funds lost this week due to absences: \$4,896 Total funds lost this year due to absences (est.): \$47,805</p> <p>Please remember that you can request an Independent Study for your child for any planned absence of 3 or more days. Please visit Ms. Aleshia in the front office to complete an Independent Study form at least 7 days before the absence is scheduled to begin.</p> <p><b>News and Reminders</b></p> <p>Our Lost and Found is full (and overflowing) with lost sweaters and jackets on the MPR stage. Any unclaimed items will be donated over Winter Break.</p> <p>Chef Guillaume and his team would like to remind families to make sure their school meals program accounts are up-to-date. Our Conscious Kitchen program is off to a great start this year, and we need to make sure that we're collecting all of the payments due in order to keep it sustainable. Families can pay their accounts online by visiting <a href="http://mymealtime.com">mymealtime.com</a>. Please contact Erin Baker with any questions about your account or about setting up online payments: <a href="mailto:ebaker@willowcreekacademy.org">ebaker@willowcreekacademy.org</a>.</p>



# FUN RUN SPENDING PLANS

**\$31,000 for science & technology**

Look how we are improving our school  
with the fun run money you all raised!

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✓ **\$19,000 on the new STEAM Lab**

Laser Engraver, Rotary Tool, Cutting  
Machines, Worktables, Carpets & More

✓ **\$12,000 on Chrome Books for K, 1 & 2**

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**THANKS EVERYONE!**

**SEE YOU ON THE RUNNING TRACK IN 2019!**



Dear Willow Creek Families:

I hope everyone has had a great Fall and that you're enjoying the start to the holidays.

As many of you know, we had a heated few months with the Sausalito/Marin City school board elections. You may have been following the elections closely, or simply have questions about what lies ahead for our school. I wanted to provide you with an update and perspective on where things stand.

First, with all the rhetoric that was flying during the election, I've heard that there has been some concern amidst our community about the future of WCA. Let me be very clear: Willow Creek is not going anywhere but up. With our dedicated team and school community, we continue to make strides forward and not a day goes by that I don't hear or witness something spectacular about this school. That is not to say that we don't have faults or experience hiccups. All schools do. However, with every small bump there come leaps of achievement. I, for one, am so excited at what lies ahead and I'm counting on you, our parent community, to work with me in continuing to make this school great.

Next, believe it or not, the election is not over... There are three open seats on the 5 person board. Two of the candidates, Josh Barrow (a Willow Creek parent) and Ida Green, are incumbents and are projected to retain their seats as the top vote-getters. It is the 3rd seat that remains uncertain, with candidate Jennifer Conway (also a Willow Creek parent) currently trailing Bonnie Hough by 8 votes (a .06% margin). Given the margin of error, there will be a recount over the next week to determine the third board member. Stay tuned.

Regardless of the final outcome, I wanted to provide some thoughts from my perspective as a Willow Creek parent.

First off, if you or your children have ever wondered if your vote really counts, the answer is "yes!" Second, regardless of the final board make-up, this election was a great community learning experience:

- It greatly increased the awareness of education in our community, our diverse student body and the need to support public schools. While there's a small negatively-vocal minority, most people we met have open minds and open hearts, and just want the best for Marin City and Sausalito students.
- It raised people's awareness that Willow Creek is the largest public school in our District, educating over 80% of the community's public school students in

- Sausalito and Marin City, and bringing our community together every day to serve kids in a caring inclusive environment. We have a lot of new supporters!
- By the end of the election, every candidate joined the call to support "All Kids" and to keep all funding in the classroom at both Bayside and WCA. This aligns with common sense and public school education guidelines, but is a fundamental shift from the position some District board members have taken in the past. That is progress.

From a go-forward perspective, we have a lot of work to do over the next 5 years, leveraging the strength of our "can-do" community to provide the best education possible for all our children. Like many parents, you may be asking how you can help. Here are a few thoughts:

1. **Tell Your WCA Story:** We increased awareness of Willow Creek around our community. We need to do more, and I ask that you keep spreading the word.
2. **Hold our elected board members to their word:** Through the election, candidates vowed to keep the money in the classroom at both Bayside and WCA. To this point, between now and the end of June, we need to hold our elected officials to their word as they set long-term budgeting. So encourage our district board members, come to District meetings to ensure the board walks the "all kids" walk, and speak up if they don't.
3. **Stay involved:** In addition to District meetings, come to the monthly WCA board meetings held in the WCA library (see the WCA calendar for future dates), and please play a role in any way you can. Remember, your participation - in any capacity - is essential.

Finally, in this season of thanks, I wanted to thank each and every one of our school leaders, teachers, staff, and families for all you do to make Willow Creek a shining example of a top-notch, diverse school community that cares. We would not be who we are without you.

Please feel free to reach out to me and the Willow Creek board. I can be reached by email ([board@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:board@willowcreekacademy.org)) or by cell at 650-759-2425. Also, I will be joining the Friday Coffee in the MPR after Assembly at 8:30 next Friday, December 14. I hope to see you there!

Take Care,

Kurt

Kurt Weinsheimer  
Willow Creek Academy Board President



**Dine at Angelinos this Sunday  
and Donate 20% to WCA**



Enjoy lunch or dinner at Angelinos in Sausalito and they will donate 20% of the total bill to Willow Creek Academy



Make a reservation at  
[www.angelinorestaurant.com](http://www.angelinorestaurant.com)

# BOON SUPPLY



**Need gifts that will delight?  
Shop at Boon Supply and 50% is  
donated to WCA.**

**Order by Tues Dec 11 for your  
items to arrive in time for the  
Holidays.**

**Go to [boonsupply.com](http://boonsupply.com), click on  
Fundraiser and find WCA**





**Willow Creek Families,**

**Our 1st graders would like to invite you to participate in a**

# **Holiday Food Drive**

**for homeless people in our community.**



**Bring your donations to the MPR stage  
by WEDNESDAY, Dec 19.**



**Please bring non-perishable food and toiletry items  
(cans or boxes please, no glass!)**

- tuna + canned meat
- canned fruit + vegetables
- whole grain pasta, rice + oats
- travel-sized soaps, shampoos, etc.

- soups
- peanut butter
- beans
- toothbrushes



*Thank you!*



SF·MARIN  
FOOD BANK

# END HUNGER

## IN SAN FRANCISCO AND MARIN

# PLEASE DONATE

### MOST NEEDED FOODS



**TUNA, CHICKEN, SALMON**  
in pop-top cans or tear-open pouches



**LOW-SODIUM CHILI, STEWS**



**NUT BUTTERS**

\*We do NOT accept pet food, glass containers, or opened packages\*

#FoodForAll #EndHungerTogether



[www.sfmfoodbank.org/food-fund-drives](http://www.sfmfoodbank.org/food-fund-drives) • 415-282-1900 x 350





# **SAVE THE DATE!!**

**DR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY**

**ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

**WILL BE HELD ON**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019**

**MARIN CITY MANZANITA CENTER**

**10AM—2:30PM**

**MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING!**

**Florence Williams, MLK COALITION REP**

**[flojoewilliams7@gmail.com](mailto:flojoewilliams7@gmail.com)**