



October, 2011

Willow Glen Primary School

Principal's Corner

Dear Willow Glen Families,

We have experienced a successful start to the new school year! I cannot tell you how impressed I am with the amount of learning that is taking place already in the first few weeks of school. We have a strong learning community at Willow Glen. In large part, thank you to the wonderful staff and families for their commitment to building bridges that will help foster learning opportunities throughout the academic year.

Once again, I'd like to welcome everyone back to Willow Glen and invite all of you to join us whenever you can. I want to encourage you to join your child for lunch, arrange volunteer times with the school/teacher, or join the PTO as an integral member of the team. We welcome visitors to the school throughout the school day. Whenever you visit us, just sign in at the office!

In the coming months, I look forward to sharing with you some of the important work that we are doing at school and what progress we are making. Thank you for working with your children at home to support school efforts. Also, thank you for all your efforts in the coming months of school to ensure success of your child. I am humbled by the commitment to learning, growth and success of your children at Willow Glen.

If I can assist you in any way or answer any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to call me at (414)486-6310. Or, if email is a better means to touch base, please send me an email at lpogorz@sfsd.k12.wi.us.

I am looking forward to a magnificent year with your child!

In partnership,
Laurie Pogorzelski
Principal

Safety is a Priority!

We all care about the safety of the children at Willow Glen. Student safety is a priority throughout the day, and for this reason a "Safety Notification" was sent home last week regarding appropriate drive-thru practices.

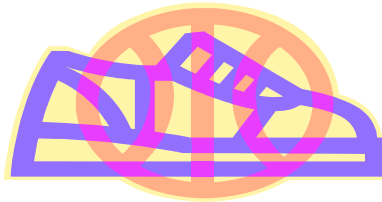
As a reminder, the driveway is to be used ONLY by drive-thru parents/caregivers. Those families who wish to walk their child/ren to the doors and/or pick them up at the end of the day, please park on the street and walk up. It is not safe to have cars passing through the center of the drive-thru lanes to access/exit the back lot. Our children are very important, and we need to always be aware of school procedures, as they were designed with your precious cargo in mind!

WKCE Testing

The WKCE testing window occurs between the end of October and the end of November. Specific schedule dates will follow. We ask that during this time, you do everything possible to plan absences, vacations, appointments during the school day outside of this window. We make every effort at school to take great care in providing a positive and supportive testing environment for our students in order to position ourselves for reliable, high-achieving results. Thank you in advance for your consideration and partnership in the above.

Resources for Preparing Students for Achievement Tests:

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>
- WKCE-CRT Frameworks
<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/wkce-crt.html>
- Practical Assessment, Research and Evaluation
<http://pareonline.net/>
- Dealing with Test Anxiety
http://www.petersons.com/testprepchannel/dealing_with_test_anxiety.asp



As many of you are aware, classroom teachers are providing instruction in the area of physical education this year. Please know that on these days, teachers are encouraged to wear clothes that are conducive to exercise, rigorous activity, and lots of movement. They lead whole group warm-ups, demonstrate skills, and play games with the students. Comfort is a necessity on these action-packed days!

Important Dates

October 3 – BOE Meeting
October 7 – Market Day Pick-up
October 17 – BOE Meeting
October 19 – **EARLY DISMISSAL 11:30**
October 27-28 – No School K-12

Timely Tips

Helping Our Children Develop Good Work Habits

As parents, we work hard to establish good habits and routines in our children's lives. When our children are very young, we set expectations for certain behaviors and provide time and encouragement until the habit or behavior becomes an established routine that is just part of their day. Saying, "please" and "thank you", picking up toys, brushing teeth and being courteous to others are only a few of the habits we consistently enforce in family life.

Good habits of work need reinforcement and encouragement too. Good habits will serve children well in their days as students and later when they enter college and the workforce. Parents can be good role models by displaying positive work habits outside the home and toward the routine chores within the home. Being on time, having a positive attitude, cooperating with others, putting forth effort, asking questions and problem solving are work habits that children see adults use every day.

As parents, we can guide children in developing good work habits in these ways:

- Seeing that the child gets to school on time
- Expecting the child to give his/her best effort
- Stating that homework takes priority over other activities and sticking to that priority
- Assisting when necessary, but not doing the work for the child
- Asking the child about school work and discussing what was learned each day
- Expecting the child to be responsible for his/her actions and not making excuses for the child's mistakes

Children learn more than academics at school – They also learn how to be good workers, to manage their time, to follow directions, and to work with others. Good work habits help children achieve self-confidence, responsibility and respect. Children will benefit if they understand that they need to arrive on time each day for school and have their homework completed and be prepared to work hard each day. These habits will help prepare the child to be a conscientious adult.

Instilling good work habits in young children, and reinforcing those habits as they grow, will provide the foundation they need to become independent, confident and successful in the future.