

# WILLARD 6-8 NEWSLETTER



As spring is quickly approaching, the pace of instruction has picked up as many teachers are focusing on important tests. Students will be taking the AIR tests in reading (6-8), math (6-8), and science (5 & 8).

Please check with your child daily to see what homework they have and what tests are coming up. Remember attendance at school is very important, and each day students are not here valuable instruction is missed. You may also check ProgressBook to review your student's grades in each class. If you have forgot your username/password, please call the school so we can give you your information.

Again, thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions please call the school so we can help.

Carly Polder  
6-8 Pod Principal



March 6—NO SCHOOL, WAIVER DAY

March 15 - End Of 3rd Nine Weeks  
Grading Period

March 21—Kindergarten Registration @  
Willard 2:00 pm—6:00 pm

March 26—SEL Parenting Class

March 27—Phantoms Game

March 28—8th Grade to North Mar for Life  
Skills

March 28—Academic Awards

April 4—Mobile Dental Van



## Skills for Life for Family

### Peace in the Family

March 26, 2019 at 2:45 till 3:45, there will be an interactive presentation for families, parent(s), grandparents and guardians to identify and practice skills and strategies for dealing with difficult emotions, stress reduction, and communication.

All Willard families are invited. A flyer will come home with your student. Refreshments will be served.

If families are interested, we will explore more skills and strategies in future sessions.

If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Goffus at (330) 675-8700 ext. 1041



Some of Willards  
7th/8th Grade band  
students will be at-

tending Solo and  
Ensemble on March 31<sup>st</sup> at  
Struthers High School. Please  
look out for paperwork to  
come home for the students  
that will be participating.

## PHONE-ADDRESS UPDATE

If your address or  
phone number has  
changed, please contact the  
office to update the infor-  
mation. It is imperative that we  
have current information in  
case of an emergency. This  
phone number is also the one  
called for district alerts.



## YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks are on sale for  
\$16.00. Please send in money in an  
envelope with your child's name on it  
and their homeroom teacher's  
name. Yearbooks will be delivered in  
late May. If you have any questions,  
please call Mrs. Torres-Feeny at 330-  
675-8700 ext. 1301.

## Geography Bee

The Willard Geography Bee was on  
January 30th under the direction of  
Mrs. Torres-Feeny. The winner of the  
Bee was Xavier Taff. The first runner-  
up was Dorian Maiden and the sec-  
ond runner-up was Tyreion Hender-  
son. Students who participated  
were: Aaron Cramer, Ethan Cramer,  
Zyire Warfield, Zachrie Spithaler,  
Shaniyah Haskins, Tyreion Henderson,  
Dorian Maiden, Xavier Taff and Shan-  
tonae Dukes. Great job everyone!!

**WILLARD 6-8  
CARLY POLDER PRINCIPAL**

Phone: 330-675-8700 Ext 1120  
Fax: 330-675-8710

The months of March and April are heavy in State AIR Assessments. These assessments check to see what your child has learned throughout the year this year. According to an article at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org), here are 6 Tips to Help Kids Tackle Test Anxiety. Katie Hurley writes, "We think of test anxiety as something that crops up when teenagers take the SAT or some other important exam, but the truth is that even very young children can experience it. With the increase in tests and assessments at the elementary school level, more and more young children are experiencing symptoms of test anxiety."

- **Ask questions to clarify.** Often, the process of saying their worries out loud helps young children work through their feelings. Understanding the thought patterns that trigger anxiety can help parents develop strategies to target specific concerns.
- **Teach test-taking basics.** Young children have very little experience taking tests. Kids may feel empowered simply by talking through basic strategies, such as reading the directions, asking questions about the directions, looking for questions they know they can answer right away, and passing over tricky questions for a moment.
- **Talk to the teacher.** Some young children become overwhelmed by things like timed math computation tests and spelling tests because they look at the whole page instead of focusing on one answer at a time.
- **Encourage positive self-talk.** Cognitive reframing is a great way to help young children cope with their anxious thoughts.
- **Teach relaxation strategies.** Visualization exercises are great for little kids because they tend to have active imaginations. Practice these when your child is calm. Ask him to close his eyes and identify a place he feels happy, confident, and relaxed
- **Bolster confidence.**

If you notice your child experiencing concerns about the upcoming State tests, please contact your child's teacher. We are here to help! ~Heidi Cope-Barker, School Improvement Supervisor

### LANGUAGE ARTS

**Grade 6** Sixth grade English Language Arts will be focusing on argumentative writing. Students have read a variety of texts that will lend themselves to the argument piece for this nine weeks. It focuses on our essential question: How is modern technology helpful and harmful to society? To assist in general argument writing, encourage your child to have mini-debates at home, using the current events (newspaper or online news sites) as a source of information. They should be able to state a claim (choose a side), and provide textual evidence to support their perspective. Logical reasoning then needs to be provided as to why the information they found matters, how it is significant, how it affects the person being discussed or others. This elaboration, along with using only textual evidence, is a key element in producing successful writing across all content areas. Any questions or concerns? Extension 1100. Homework is still Tuesday-Thursday.

**Grade 7** March is one of the busiest and important months for our students. The essential question for our unit is, 'Should we make a home in space?' The students have two important writing assignments and continued practice for their state test. They have assignments posted on My Perspectives to help them in their studies. Homework is given out on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday along with their computer assignments. The students are independent reading at least ten minutes a day, please talk with your child about what they have been reading in class. Thank you for your continued support.

**Grade 8** In 8th grade language arts we are wrapping up argumentative texts and practicing argument skills through bracket battles and the game Snake Oil! Students will begin the final unit of the year as we inch closer to becoming high school freshman. Please reinforce our WARREN acronym at home: work ethic, accountability, responsibility, respect, effective behavior, and no excuses!



Willard Kindergarten Registration will take place on Thursday, March 21st from 2-6 pm at Willard. Children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30th are eligible for Kindergarten in the 2019-2020 school year. Please bring your child's birth certificate, social security card, shot records, proof of residency, and any custody papers (if applicable).

If you are interested in having your 3 or 4 year old attend one of our WCS Five Star PRE-SCHOOLS, please call Larreka at 330-675-4321 for further information.

**Grade 6** After finishing up our Algebra unit, sixth grade will be moving into geometry. This is a fun unit with plenty of opportunities for hands on activities. Students will be completing multiple real world activities as well. The skills they will learn will be helpful as we complete a project based assessment where students will be asked to design and build a food truck. Their algebra skills will be revisited because they will also be expected to create a budget and menu for their food truck.

**Grade 7** We have just started Chapter 5, "Probability and Solving Word Problems." There are three concepts that will be covered in this chapter: 1) The use of a Linear Model to represent part-to-whole relationships, 2) investigate probability of multiple events along with theoretical and experimental probability and 3) use of the "5-D" process, drawing-describing-defining elements of a word problem. Spring is just around corner which means AIR testing is too! I will be working with students on AIR released questions every Friday. Homework is still a needed area of improvement for many of the students. Please ask your child on a daily basis what homework was assigned for that day. The E-Book is a great resource to help you and your child.

**Grade 8** As we move in to March, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be working with data and graphs. We will start off with circle graphs and comparing two sets of data. We will move into scatter plots and finding a line of best fit, so we will be revisiting some ideas about slope and  $y = mx + b$ . We will be interpreting data in tables and graphs and using slope as a rate to make comparisons and predictions on a graph. In class, all students will have access to our e-textbook on the computer. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at the school at 330-675-8700 ext. 1108 or at [valerie.thomas@neomin.org](mailto:valerie.thomas@neomin.org)

### Compacted Math

In 7th grade compacted math we will be wrapping up our final 7th grade lessons with geometry concepts. Students will finish the year in the 8th grade text to help prepare them for algebra next year. Please reinforce our WARREN acronym at home: work ethic, accountability, responsibility, respect, effective behavior, and no excuses

**Grade 6** March already! Time is flying! Our scientists will be finishing up working on speed. Then, we will be working on Atoms and Elements. During this unit, we will be discussing protons, neutrons and electrons. The scientists will be focusing on the first twenty elements of the periodic table. They students really enjoy this unit!

**Grade 7** "Hello 7th Grade Families! Your students did a wonderful job this month learning about the Water Cycle! During the month of March, we will finish up our Water unit learning about Weather, Water Quality, and Currents in the Ocean. This month, as a grade level, we will be focusing on strengthening our ability to recognize vocabulary terms, and the ability to read using context clues. This unit includes many new vocabulary terms, so there will be a large focus on "word dissections" in Science this month. We have started a new challenge this month called the "Integrity Challenge". This challenge aligns with our Second Step lessons on having and using our personal values. Students will need to conduct themselves with responsibility, honesty, and respect in order to win fun activities at the end of the week. Each student is responsible for attempting their work each day, and turning it in, in order to win the challenge. Not only will this improve your student's grade, but it will also allow the students to work together to reach a common goal. Thank you so much for your continued support. Go Raiders!

**Grade 8** The 8th grade science class will be starting the Life Science Unit in March. Students will be able to explain that every organism alive today comes from a long line of ancestors who reproduced successfully every generation. Students will be focusing on DNA, Genes, and Traits.

**Grade 6** Students will be finishing their exploration of Ancient Mesopotamia and moving on to Egypt, Africa, the Indus River and China. They will continue to explore patterns of change in continuity by focusing on the expansion of and the decline of civilizations, patterns of geography, and development of political, economic, and societal systems. Students will analyze and evaluate how foundations of society influence the modern era.

**Grade 7** Seventh grade social studies will continue to study the causes and disputes within the Christian Church and how it led to the Protestant Reformation Movement. In addition, students will exam the efforts to reform the Catholic Church led to changes in society and the creation of new churches. In conclusion, students will analyze the political impact of the Reformation Movement including religious wars and social change. Students will finally begin to examine the historical events known as the Scientific Revolution and the Great Voyages of Discovery. They will investigate how the gain of knowledge and discoveries not only brought forth a way of gaining knowledge but also great wealth and influence within European countries, thus having a lasting impact on future generations.

**Grade 8** Welcome to March! Time is flying! Our eighth graders are working on Westward Expansion and The Industrial Revolution. The student will be able to explain how westward expansion contributed to not only economic, but also industrial development. The students will also learn what the impact of this movement was on people, products and ideas.