



Willow Park School

School Assurance Plan 2023-2024

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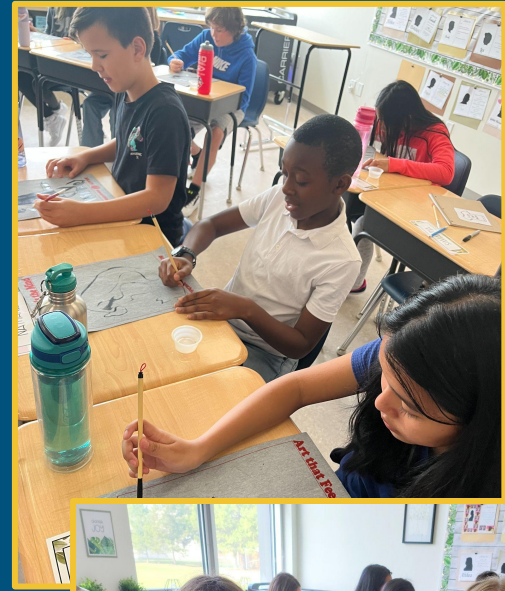


Willow Park School Profile

We are proud of our Willow Park School family and strive each day to meet the needs of all our 285 students. Our north-central Leduc location includes central Leduc, Willow Park, Bridgeport and Deer Valley. Therefore, the majority of our students arrive by bus each day. Our school population does tend to change monthly but overall student numbers tend to remain stable.

To provide the best learning environment for our students, we keep class sizes small whenever possible. As such, our staff supports students with 18 teachers and 19 support staff that include Education Assistants, Office & Library staff as well as 2 Custodians. We provide an inclusive and caring atmosphere. Our students have many different abilities, come from a variety of countries and speak many different languages at home.

We value opportunities to support our students beyond the classroom, and are fortunate to have a full-time Family School Liaison who provides small group and individual counselling to students. Her role also includes supporting families to connect with community resources, and provides daily smudging for interested students. Mrs. Haugan provides our classes with universal supports for mental health, self-regulation and mindfulness.



Integrated School Support Program

WPS was chosen to be a part of a pilot research study and program in conjunction with the University of Calgary and the Calgary Police Youth Foundation. The Integrated School Support Program (ISSP) is a study on how early intervention and prevention in schools through enhanced wrap-around supports can improve wellness and student success.

This program includes multiple pieces that benefit our students which include:

- A full-time, onsite mental health worker - Ms. Chelsey our FSL, and Dr. Shawn Reynolds who is a contracted Educational Psychologist
- Enhanced nutrition through our breakfast program, snack, and lunch services
- After-school programs - ours are currently provided by the Boys and Girls Club for grade 4-6 students
- Physical education training for teachers
- Enhanced positive police presence - officers will volunteer at the school and attend events

This program will run in our school for 2 years. Though all students benefit from the services the program provides, parents are given the option to participate in the research side of the program through the University of Calgary.



A Message from the WPS School Council

The Willow Park School Council actively supports the efforts of the school to enhance student learning and foster the well-being and effectiveness of the school community. Our School Council focuses on the business of the school and works parallel to our Parents' Association, which is the fundraising body for the school.



The School Council continues to work closely with administration and teachers to improve the school environment. This is done by discussing issues relevant to education, safety and supporting the strategic initiatives of the school including maintaining and promoting health and wellness, improving Numeracy and Literacy skills, and celebrating cultural diversity within our school population.

Some of our initiatives this year include:

- To increase parent involvement by promoting the Parents Association and School Council by communicating what we do, any upcoming events and why the PAWS and Council is important to the success of our school and its students.
- We will be focusing a lot of our efforts this year on fundraising which will include, DFS Catalogues, 50/50 online Raffle, continuing with our hot lunch program, Growing Smiles Spring Flowers Fundraiser and more.
- Discuss and give input on new curriculum and school calendars.
- Most importantly continue to support our teachers and students so they can thrive this school year.



We Have Many Reasons to Celebrate



Student Clubs, Sports Teams and Other Opportunities: School is an opportunity to expose children to many diverse experiences. Therefore, our extra-curricular programs are inclusive to all students regardless of ability or experience. We offer noon hour clubs such as art club, coding & robotics, crib club, and more. Our school participates in sports teams including track and field, floor hockey, basketball and cross-country.

Seven Sacred Teachings and Friday Assemblies: Weekly assemblies are an important part of our school. These assemblies provide students an opportunity to meet regularly with the school administrators in a positive, learning environment. At the start of each year, topics include school safety, playground rules and conflict resolution. The remainder of the year, our school is teaching our Character Education topics through the Seven Sacred Teachings. These include learning about courage, love, wisdom, respect, truth, humility, and honesty through student engagement, discussion and activities.

Family Events: Our staff enjoys opportunities to spend time with our Willow Park family through various family events. These include pumpkin carving nights, family dances, Community Breakfast in Unison, Winter Wonderland Night, movie nights, Winter Walk Day, Tom's Walk for Mental Health, Terry Fox Walk, Jump Rope for Heart and many more.





English Additional Language Learners: Connecting our families who are new to Canada or learning English to community supports is key to helping many of our students and their families get the resources they need. Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) has been a helpful resource for these families and for us here at the school so that our new families are successfully able to call Leduc their home.

Whole School Assemblies: Every Friday, students come together for a Student of the Week Assembly where we celebrate student successes over the week, share information, welcome new students, move and even dance.

Social Media and Communication: Parents are kept informed on events, updates and celebrations through our regular Facebook posts and our regular news updates.



Recycling Program: Did you know that our school won an award as a Citizen of Distinction for the City of Leduc? We try each and every day to live up to that award by working to produce a minimal amount of garbage in our school. We do this by recycling and composting everything we can here at WPS. Led by our Grade 4 students, all students are encouraged and reminded to reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible and waste is checked to see if it can be recycled or composted before it goes to the garbage.

Hal Rogers Award: Each year, we are proud to recognize one or two of our Grade 6 students as the recipient(s) of the Hal Rogers Good Citizen Award. Hal Rogers was a teacher in our school who promoted and valued good citizenship. Every year since his passing in 1987, we have been honoured to have members of Mr. Rogers' family present this award to a member of our Grade 6 graduating class. June 2022 was the 35th year of the Hal Rogers Award.

Coding & Robotics: We are proud to offer a Coding and Robotics program to our students, with this new program we have begun to develop at WPS. Thanks to a previous grant from APEGA and a radio cash prize, our school has accumulated an assortment of robotics and coding tools for our students to use that include Dashes, MicroBits, Climate Action Kits, and K8 robots!



Academic Celebrations



Numeracy/Fact Fluency Project: Last year students in all grades began taking part in daily, targeted practice of basic fact fluency through games and fun interactive activities. Monthly assessments showed that while engaged in numeracy in this way, students were better able to recall and retain their basic fact skills. This initiative is now regular practice in all our Grade 1-6 classrooms.

Literacy RTI Model: Using literacy screening tools, we are able to identify where students may have gaps in reading fluency and accuracy. This year, our Grade 1-3 classes have used the RTI model to group students by specific literacy needs for daily reading intervention time. These students work in small groups with a teacher or EA and are regrouped throughout as their literacy needs change.

Alberta Education Assurance Survey: Willow Park continues to exceed provincial averages in all areas. We have a robust school community with support of our families and the many community partnerships that invest time into making WPS a great place to learn.

Provincial Exam Results: Every year, Grade 6 students take part in PAT exams in the 4 core subjects. In the most recent testing, our students scored above the provincial average in Math, ELA and Social Studies and were on par with the province in Science. This is a reflection of the hard work our teachers and students put in throughout their seven years at our school.

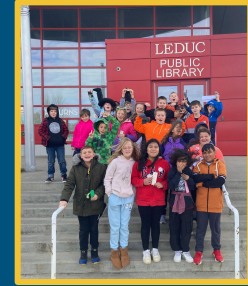
Spirit Days, Activities and Holiday Activities

It is not just academics at Willow Park School. We love to have fun while we learn.

- The Grade 6 Leadership Team chooses the School Spirit days each month with various themes such as jersey day, crazy hair day, PJ day, etc.
- The 12 Days of Christmas include a different theme each day for students and staff to celebrate the holiday season. Students dress up, enjoy a sweet treat on gingerbread and milk day or design an ornament to go on our school Christmas trees!
- A Mental Health Day is hosted for students and staff each spring. It is full of activities that promote mindfulness, positive thinking and self-regulation.
- Our Grade 6 Farewell every June is an opportunity for the whole school and Grade 6 families to celebrate our students moving on from WPS.
- Parent Coffee Mornings: Throughout the year, our FSL hosts parent coffee mornings. This is an opportunity for parents to come in, connect with each other, ask questions about parenting, mental health, self-regulation, etc.



Challenges



- The challenges that our school faces gives our staff a strong sense of purpose in the work that they do.
- With a large population of our school families being English Language Learners, effective communication can be challenging. Connecting students with Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) has helped alleviate some of these challenges for our EAL families.
- Socioeconomic Diversity: We have some families that struggle to meet their basic needs. We work to help support the students while they are in our care by providing breakfast, lunch, snacks, clothing items, and personal care and hygiene products as needed. We work closely with the Leduc Food Bank and other community organizations to help support our students and their families.
- Communicating to the parents of our future students that Pre-Kindergarten programming is available for them. Early intervention would benefit many of our future students but is being missed as parents are not aware of the opportunities due to language barriers and a lack of connection with our school if no siblings are already enrolled.



Assurance Measure Results

Required Alberta Education Assurance Measures - Overall Summary

Fall 2023

School: 3217 Willow Park School

Assurance Domain	Measure	Willow Park School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Student Growth and Achievement	Student Learning Engagement	96.6	92.6	92.6	84.4	85.1	85.1	n/a	Maintained	n/a
	Citizenship	93.9	81.9	83.3	80.3	81.4	82.3	Very High	Improved	Excellent
	3-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.7	83.2	82.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.6	87.1	86.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Acceptable	70.6	42.9	n/a	63.3	64.3	n/a	Intermediate	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Excellence	15.7	5.4	n/a	16.0	17.7	n/a	Intermediate	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.3	75.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.2	18.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	95.9	95.8	94.7	88.1	89.0	89.7	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRESLE)	96.6	89.3	89.3	84.7	86.1	86.1	n/a	Improved	n/a
	Access to Supports and Services	92.8	76.2	76.2	80.6	81.6	81.6	n/a	Improved Significantly	n/a
Governance	Parental Involvement	85.1	68.3	75.6	79.1	78.8	80.3	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

School Improvement Goal 1: Visible Learning

To build a visible learning community within the school where educators develop a strong understanding of their impact on student learning and students evaluate their understanding to measure progress towards learning goals.

Alignment with Division Priorities: ([Success](#))

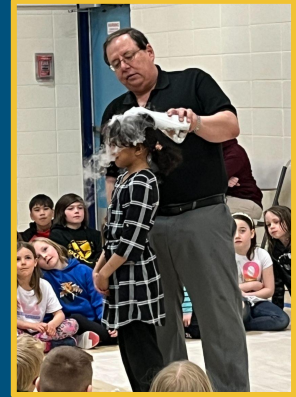
Success: Promote growth that leads to success for every student from Pre-kindergarten through to postsecondary, providing multiple pathways and a focus for all learners.

Timeline: Year 1 of 3.

Rationale:

- Focusing on building visible learning practices with educators will help students to develop skills for critical thinking and problem solving. A strong ability to think critically allows students to then transfer and apply their learning to new situations.
- Outside of the home, teachers have the most impact on student learning and building capacity in our teachers to promote this with students will help them grow as learners.

Years 2 & 3 to be outlined upon further direction from BGSD.



Year 1

Timeline: 2023-2024

Strategies:

- Build foundational knowledge and awareness of Visible Learning concepts with staff and students.
- Data collection on selected focused on students understanding of what they are learning, how they know if they learned it, and what strategies they will use when not understanding a concept.
- Using the data collected, formulate an action plan on how to improve student understanding of what they are learning within the school.



Supporting Data:

- From October to December - Evidence collected of current students understanding through multiple brief interviews at all grade levels.
June - Re-administer the interview questions towards the end of the year to identify if strategies made a positive impact.



Reflections On Previous Year's Goals

Improve student performance in literacy: Using screening tools, teachers guided their reading instruction to provide targeted intervention where it was needed. Teachers took part in professional development on researched practices for reading intervention. They began to implement this learning through individual and small group intervention using programs such as UFLI and the intervention program we previously piloted through the University of Alberta. In each grade level, there were less students at the at risk level for reading than at the start of the year as per our school wide benchmark assessments.

Reinforce effective assessment practices that further promote student growth and learning: A significant improvement was seen in the area of communicating learning through PowerSchool and report cards. It was evident that more specific feedback was being provided to students on a consistent basis. Due to new curriculum rollout, we did not create the common assessments as planned as teachers were still familiarizing with the new outcomes to be measured. This will be revisited once new curriculum is rolled out at each grade level.

Increase student numeracy skills and Math instruction using a model that further builds a conceptual understanding of Math concepts: Teachers worked closely with their NIST to build learning opportunities that were hands-on, interactive and promoted engagement in learning. Division 1 teachers found the Mathology program to be a valuable resource for teaching and learning. Leaps and Bounds was used as the basis of our numeracy intervention groups. School wide assessments at the end of the year showed improvement in numeracy skills at each grade level with some eliminating an at risk percentage of students completely or close to.

Instructional Support Teachers



To support instruction and teacher growth, we have 3 instructional support teachers. Each teacher is given a weekly portion of time to work side by side with teachers on the following goals:

- Wellness (WIST): To increase overall staff and student wellness by fostering a safe, positive, and compassionate environment for learning and growth, promoting mental health literacy among staff and students, and providing staff and students with opportunities to get active and make healthy choices for their brains, bodies, and hearts.
- Numeracy (NIST): Increase student numeracy skills and Math instruction using a model that further builds a conceptual understanding of Math concepts.
- Literacy (LIST): Continue to build teacher capacity in the areas of reading instruction and writing skills through group/center models and intervention.