



Willow Wind Community Learning Center

February 2019 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

January 28-Feb 1
Talent Show Audition
Sign Ups

Monday, February 4
Raising Culturally
Conscious Kids
6:30pm in the Barn

February 5, 6, 7
Talent Show Auditions
4:00pm in the Barn

Tuesday, February 12
Parent Council
1:15-2:30pm

Friday, February 15
Pizza Friday

Friday, February 15
Bingo!
5:30-7:15pm

Monday, February 18
NO CLASSES
President's Day

February 27, 28 and
March 1
NO CLASSES
Parent Partner
Conferences

Notes from the Office

Happy New Year to you all! We are now almost four weeks into the New Year and the children are all excited to be back at Willow Wind with their friends and teachers.

The words "Spring Semester" bring thoughts of daffodils, sunshine and green hills, but wintery weather will be around for a while longer. Please make sure your children come with boots, warm jackets, hats, and gloves. Most Willow Wind students like to be outside even in the winter and we want to make sure they stay dry and warm.

The new semester began on Wednesday, January 23. The first days of a new term are always exciting and busy. Many of our spring classes are full, but we will continue to post the short list of available classes in the office.

January Focus was lots of fun. Many Willow Wind students took the opportunity to try out new activities and learn new skills. We will be looking forward to the next series of workshops in June—if you have ideas for workshops, please let us know.

Welcome back!

Debbie



Follow Willow Wind on Facebook! "Like" our page at
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Willow-Wind-Community-Learning-Center/399419993464732>

Events and Announcements

11th ANNUAL WILLOW WIND TALENT SHOW



Willow Wind's 11th Annual Talent Show is in the works! All students welcome! Auditions (a chance to meet the kids and see what's up) will be held in the barn between 4-6 pm on February 5, 6 and 7. The sign up sheet will be available in the office beginning January 28th and ending February 1st. Please pick up a list of rules and permission slips in the office, and bring them to your audition time. The dress rehearsal is at AMS on March 14, and the show is at AMS on March 15. We are looking for students to share the Emcee role. So much fun to support our kids in their talents, let's do it! Please contact Ivy Ross with any questions: ivyross73@gmail.com, (541)324-4412.

RAISING CULTURE CONSCIOUS KIDS

Monday, February 4 at 6:30pm

Willow Wind Barn

Creating a Culture of Care. How might our own family culture of care help to create a culture of care among our kids? Might a culture of embodied compassion actually create a kid culture where they can be compassionate allies to others? Join other Willow Wind parents on February 4th from 6:30 to 8 pm to join in the discussion led by Paul Condon, Assistant Professor of Psychology at SOU. His research examines how prosocial emotions and mindfulness- and compassion-based interventions shape health outcomes (e.g., cardiovascular recovery from stress, social connectivity and support) and positive social outcomes (e.g., bystander intervention, relationship formation). Paul will share his research, his practices and lead us in a parent focused discussion. Contact Moneeka with questions at sneekam@yahoo.com. Childcare will be available.

2019-2020 INQUIRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

If you know of families who are interested in attending Willow Wind for the 2019- 2020 school year, please encourage them to contact the office or fill out an Inquiry Form.

Inquiry Forms are available at: <http://www.ashland.k12.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=1702>.

We will be accepting inquiry forms until April 8th and the lottery will be held on April 18, 2018.

Do You Have an Incoming Kindergartener? We are beginning to compile a list of siblings who are planning to join Willow Wind in the fall. Please complete an Inquiry Form if you will have an incoming kindergartener. In early March, we will send official Intent to Return Forms that will need to be returned before spring break.

SPRING FAMILY SERVICE UPDATE

This spring semester is almost a month longer than the fall semester. Although it may seem like a lot of time to fulfill your family service obligations, PLEASE do not wait to get started. It is not possible to provide hours of jobs during the last week of classes. There are many opportunities available now. Please note: Volunteering in your child's class does not count toward service hours. Family Service Record sheets are located in the office lobby.

BINGO NIGHT

Friday, February 15 at 5:30pm to 7:15pm

Please join us in the Willow Wind barn for a FUN night of games and prizes. Pizza will be served at 5:30pm for \$2.50 per slice and bingo will kick off at 6:00pm.

This event is hosted by the Willow Wind Community Association and all proceeds from this event will go towards supporting the NEW GREENHOUSE. See you there!

News from the Classroom

Skyrockets: Working with Words!

The Skyrockets are poets! January Focus has been a study of poetry of all kinds – haiku, rhyming, free verse, diamante, cinquain, and various types of figurative language to bring the poetry to life – metaphor, simile, alliteration, personification, and hyperbole. Poems printed here are a small sample of the authors' works. Some are inspired by Martin Luther King and his work and some by nature. Enjoy!!

MLK

By Solena

He fought for civil rights
He marched with many people
And he never gave up

A Kind Leader

By Tzayuli

Martin Luther King
Kind, caring, peaceful, brave
Fighting for his rights

Storm

By Naya

Snow and rain come down today,
Making the sky look quite gray,
Dripping, dropping, always falling,
Snow and rain come down today.

MLK

By Olivia

Martin Luther King
He was an amazing man
He marched for black rights

Martin Luther King

By Stella

I have a dream
Love don't shove
Shot, never forgot
Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King

By Willow

Martin Luther King
He changed the world forever
Cherry Blossom

A Strong Leader

By Elsa

Though a man of black,
He didn't stand back,
He fought for his rights,
And brought the black people light.

By Olive

His words were powerful,
Showing the courage to fight peacefully,
He was a leader,
People followed the path he made,
He marched for civil rights.

Rain

By Anya

Wet, Cold
Falling, Pattering Misting
Puddles, mud, drifts, plow
Sledding, Skiing, Celebrating
Quiet, white
Snow

News from the Classroom

Honeybees and Firecrackers: Social Studies

Last fall, we studied Civics, learning how our government works and what our rights and responsibilities are as citizens. During the weeks leading up to the election, there was a lot of talk in the news about voter ID laws across the country. Together as a class and on their own, students researched the issue and looked for evidence that would help them form a conclusion about these laws.

Voter ID Laws are Discriminatory and Harm Our Democracy

by Ella Gibbs, 11/16/18

Should the US have voter identification laws? As these laws are executed state by state, hundreds of thousands of people-- mainly the elderly, people with disabilities, and minorities-- are kept from the polls every year. Democracy literally means 'rule by the people'. 'We The People' should all have our voices heard; it's how our government works. The discriminatory nature of voter ID laws harms this democracy. If we want to maintain our freedom and the rights our ancestors fought for, then the US should ban voter ID laws.

In the US as a whole, "11% of US citizens- or more than 21 million Americans- do not have government issued photo identification," according to the American Civil Liberties Foundation 'Oppose Voter ID Legislation' fact sheet. That is over 21 million people not being represented in our government. Looking closer, you'll see how the problem presents itself racially. The ACLU reports that "Minority voters disproportionately lack ID. Nationally, up to 25% of African American citizens of voting age lack government issued ID, compared to only 8% of whites." They continue, reporting that in many places, voter ID laws cherry-pick the type of ID you need to vote based on race. For example, "Texas allows concealed weapons permits for voting, but does not accept student ID cards." The vast majority of licensed gun owners in Texas are in fact white. However, many people agree with these arbitrary laws. At a rally in Tampa, Florida in July, President Trump claimed, "You go out and you want to buy anything, you need ID and you need your picture," thus implying that 'everyone' has an ID. He continues, "You know, if you go out and you want to buy groceries, you need a picture on a card, you need ID." This is false for a few reasons: one, you don't need ID to buy groceries, and two, as described earlier, many people don't actually have IDs. Plus, as the Brennan Center for Justice informs, "1.2 million eligible black voters and 500,000 eligible hispanic voters live more than 10 miles from their nearest ID issuing office open more than two days a week." So not only do many people, mainly people of color, lack IDs, but it's very difficult for those who don't have transportation, money, or time to get an ID, too. For people who are having to work multiple shifts, or maybe can't afford a bus ticket or the ID itself, there's no way to just 'make time and get one'. There are also several accounts of elderly people having to go through ordeals of getting the endless paperwork for which the ID offices ask, some even needing a lawyer, and ending up having to pay a large amount of money, all just to exercise their basic right.

Voter identification laws are a form of voter suppression that are comparable to those of the 1800s when poll taxes, literacy tests, and plain intimidation were used to keep any minority from the polls. The truth? These laws betray the idea that your vote matters just as much as anyone else's, regardless of who they or you are. And this is the very idea on which our country's democratic government was based. If 'We The People' want our voices to be heard, we cannot allow these discriminatory and harmful laws to keep passing.

News from the Classroom

Voter ID Laws

by Amy Perrin, 11/19/18

Literacy tests and poll taxes have been banned, but that doesn't mean other obstacles haven't been put in place to prevent minority voters from having their say, and to prevent the rare case of voting fraud. Some states in the US require specific photo ID's in order for a citizen to vote, which, for many people are hard to get. ID laws prevent Legal citizens from expressing their opinion, therefore Voter ID laws should be banned.

By focusing on the supposed voting fraud solution, a person might miss the fact that getting an accepted photo ID is not an easy task. According to the Washington Post, "... many election experts say that the process for obtaining a photo ID can be far more difficult than it looks for hundreds of thousands of people across the country who do not have the required photo identification cards. Those most likely to be affected are elderly citizens, African Americans, Hispanics and low-income residents." Showing, how voter ID laws could be designed as another racist way of voter suppression. This article shows that not only are lots of legal US citizens affected, but that voter ID laws may be effectively preventing minority voters. "A new study from researchers...at the University of California San Diego is one of the first to analyze certified votes across all states after the implementation of voter laws in multiple elections, and it found just that kind of racially discriminatory impact." The Atlantic stated in an article on voter ID laws discrimination. This study supports the idea that it isn't just a coincidence that minority voters are feeling the impact of voter ID laws more than the rest of us. But these laws could all be worth it if it stopped the countless cases of voter fraud. "There is substantial evidence of voter fraud" said President Donald Trump in a statement on Jan 3, 2018. Considering that he is the current leader of the USA, we should need no further persuasion. But according to Polifact.com "News21, a national investigative reporting project...found just 56 cases of noncitizens voting between 2000 and 2011." Yes, in an election every vote counts, but this is about 5 cases of voting fraud across the country every year. Is it really worth attempting to stop voting fraud that hardly exists, when it means that thousands of legal US citizens are not able to cast their vote?

Voter suppression was declared illegal thanks to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but these ID laws are actively preventing many minority and elderly citizens from voting. This should not be encouraged, or even still legal. The requirement to show a specific ID to vote is discriminatory, and should be banned.

News from the Classroom

Voter ID Laws

by Simone Starbird, 11/2018

Should there be voter ID laws in the United States? Voter ID laws can be problematic in several areas such as discrimination, difficulty obtaining IDs, and cost of getting a physical form of identification. Americans are being negatively affected by voter identification requirements. Therefore, voters in the US should not be required to show an ID when voting.

Many people believe that photo ID requirements make our elections secure and real. An article by the Washington post even went as far as to say that it's "absurd to suggest that anyone is 'disenfranchised' by such protective measures." Dan Hopkins, professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania, however, has a different opinion. He states "...even if voter ID laws haven't swung election outcomes, they can deny thousands of people their right to vote- denials that fall disproportionately on black and Latino citizens." Depriving thousands of people of their right to vote is a real thing. Robert Hoffman from ACLU found that a 2014 GAO study discovered that the states with strict photo ID laws lost tens of thousands of votes in just one state. Hoffman also found that since getting a physical ID can be a burden, (and an expensive one), some people may simply not want to vote anymore. He says "even if ID is offered for free, voters must incur numerous costs... to apply for a government issued ID... the combined cost of document fees, travel expenses, and waiting time are estimated to range from \$75 to \$175.

It has become clear that requiring voters to show form of identification at the polls is not good for our country, seeing that there are reasons such as cost, discrimination, and voter turnout that make them unacceptable. IDs can be expensive to get, have been proven to reduce voter turnout by very large numbers, and if the voter turnout is lowered by such high numbers, then our country's decisions will only be made by a portion of the population! These reasons distinctly say that voter identification requirements do more bad than good for our country.



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Find Willow Wind on the Web at:
www.ashland.k12.or.us/willowwind

Don't forget to "Perk Up" on the first Friday of each month at participating local coffee shops! 10% of all purchases made on Perk Up Fridays will be donated to the Ashland Schools Foundation to support school projects!



MATERIALS FEE

Material fees for each student are due the first day of class. Please make every effort to stop by the office and remit payment. If you are unable to make payment at this time, please contact the office to make alternative arrangements. Waivers are available to all students.

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER:



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