

**Dear Willow Families,**

**Happy September! Here we are... back into school! We hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we hope everyone is excited for the new school year. We have many plans for this year with high expectations for lots of great learning!**

**We thank all of you for attending registration days and Meet the Teacher. Showing your children that you care about their education gives them that extra support they need to succeed.**

**Don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything from the Willow staff. You families, the students and our staff together make great teams!**

**Mrs. Ranney, Principal**

## **FIRST GRADE NEWS**

First grade students are off to a good start! We will be starting our reading series soon. Look for the books to be coming home. We will be reviewing beginning sounds, upper and lower case letters, color words, and establishing classroom routines. In math, our focus will be counting, writing numbers correctly, and making patterns. We are also hard at work reviewing the I-Care Rules. All first grade students will be starting a unit about the farm. This will tie into many activities including a possible field trip in October.

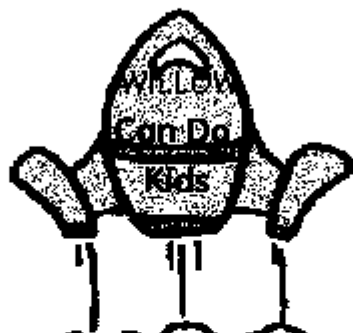
## **Second Grade Summary**

Our first theme in reading is Family Fun, including pets. As we review the **I Care Rules**, we focus on friendship and getting along with others. We will be working on narrative writing with emphasis on showing movement through time, and including details with juicy words. In math, our time will be spent on touch points, "counting on," +1, +2, +3; basic facts, addition and subtraction, before and after, and counting. We will be studying insects and their life cycle with 2,000 ladybugs to observe.

## **Third Grade Happenings**

Third graders look forward to celebrating Grandparent's Day with a celebration on Friday [September 7th](#) at 2:15. Grandparents are invited to the classroom to have students present their writing, sing songs, and receive special handmade gifts. They will be served refreshments as well! In math students will begin a place value and ordinal numbers unit. Students will begin their reading series and focus on high frequency and national reading vocabulary words.

Spelling, too will incorporate these words. Science and Social Studies units will correlate with the reading themes. Third graders will be learning so much this month!



Let Us Show You the Learning!

WILLOW CAN DO KIDS: "Let Us Show You the Learning!"

### **Playground update**

The air conditioning work is almost completed. The blacktop by the first grade entrance has been replaced, and the first graders will be entering and exiting from their regular entrance from now on.

### **After School Driving Pick-up Problems**

There has been much congestion in front of the school when the children are dismissed at the day's end. Vehicles stop within the walking crosswalks and turn when pedestrians are still walking across the street. Other vehicles are parking in front of the school which is causing major congestion, especially with school buses.

The principal will be working with the City of Pekin and the Pekin Police Department to see possible remedies to these dangerous congestion and traffic problems. If you pick up your child in this front area, please pay attention to possible changes in the near future. A note will be sent home if there are parking and traffic flow changes. We do not want anyone, including our crossing guard, to be in any danger.

[Please insert the PDF file about Safety Tips.]

### **Returning Signed Papers:**

Please return any papers from Registration and Meet the Teacher that need to be turned into Willow School, including:

- The yellow signature page that goes with the District Discipline Handbook from Meet the Teacher (please keep the handbook at home)
- The blue #108 Release of Information
- The yellow Tazewell Co. Health Dept. Authorization for Release of Information
- The Parent Notification Signature Card ( that went with the district's policies and compact)
- Registration Checklist (Legal Notices and Permissions and Registration Materials)
- Yearbook release (Meet the Teacher)

Thank you for your cooperation!

WELCOME BACK, WILLOW STAFF!

We are so happy to be back in school. Listed below is our 2007-08 Staff!

Kindergarten: Miss Simpson, Mrs. Price and Mrs. Simms (new)

K-1 Instructional: Mr. Grys and Mrs. Adams (assistant)

First Grade: Mrs. Peffer, Mrs. Salzman, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Smith ( new assistant) and Mrs. Schmidgall (ISU intern)

Second Grade: Mrs. Vonesh (Miss Rice married and in new grade), Miss Gardner, and Mrs. Clark and Miss Carey (ISU intern)

First and Second Instructional: Mrs. Whaley, Mrs. Haynes and Mrs. Potts(new) (assistants)

Third Grade: Mrs. Jacobs, Mr. Ritchason, Mr. Theleritis, and Miss Redd, Miss Davis, and Miss Hockman (ISU interns)

Second and Third Instructional: Mrs. Gambetti and Mrs. Davis (assistant)

Resource Teacher: Mrs. Labatt

Literacy Leaders: Mrs. Van Dyke, Ms. Warner (new), Mrs. Hawkins, and Mrs. Pearson (assistant)

At Risk Instructor: Mrs Freeman

At Risk Counselor: Mrs. Johnson (new)

Special Ed. Liaison: Mrs. Milam

Health Clerk: Mrs. Bennett

Music: Mrs. Cavalinni

P.E.: Mr. Onken

Speech: Mrs. James

Learning Center: Mrs. Mahan

Secretary: Mrs. Rollings (new)

Principal: Mrs. Ranney (new)

We welcome all of our new staff members and cherish all of our veterans! ☺

