



The Wilson Word

A publication of The Wilson School, Founded 1913

Celebrating Our 99th Year of Excellence!

Volume 18, Issue 1

Visit us online at www.wilsonschoo.com

September 16, 2011

In This Issue!

Pre-Kindergarten:	p. 3
First Grade:	p. 4
New Teacher:	p. 5
Read, Right & Run:	p. 5
PA News:	p. 6
PE:	p. 7
Speaker Series:	p. 8
Trivia Night:	p. 9
Fourth Grade:	p. 9
Latin:	p. 10
French:	p. 11
Calendar:	p. 12



A Warm Welcome To New And Returning Wilson Families

By Director of Admissions Laura Hartung

Wilson's opening day enrollment of 194 was the strongest in the school's recent history. The success of new student enrollment is dependent on the positive "word of mouth" of current Wilson families and alumni. In fact, parents looking to enroll in a private school are driven most by what they hear from other parents, more so than any other source of information. Social media is also an influential source of information for parents in the search process. It is also a great way for current and alumni families to keep up with school news and the many exciting things that are going on. Wilson's website is frequently updated with new videos, photos of school wide events and classroom activities, *The Wilson Word* and *Excellence Program* newsletters to name a few. The school also has a page on Facebook which is a great way to share Wilson with your friends. So please don't forget to share these important resources with prospective families. And remember, Wilson's hallmarks of excellence are our exceptional educators, nurturing environment, classic instruction and innovative methods.

A warm welcome is extended to the wonderful children who have entered Wilson this year! Our student body has always reflected many aspects of diversity. The international component is represented by children with one or both parents having been born outside of the U.S. This year, these countries include Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Estonia, France, Germany, Korea, Russia and Switzerland. Although most of our new families are from the St. Louis area, several moved from other places including China, Switzerland, New York, Chicago, Houston, Rolla and Rancho Santa Fe, California. One of our parents,

continued on page 2





Cover Story ... continued

Anne (Duda) Mayes (Class of 1987) is a Wilson alumna. Welcome to Wilson!

(*NF indicates a new Wilson family, NS indicates a new sibling from an existing Wilson family.)

Pre-Kindergarten

George Farrell, NF - David Farrell & Hélène Urvoaz

Mallory Fischer, NF - Matt & Devon Fischer

Luca Fuerer, NS - Cornel Fuerer & Bokkyeong Suh

Eliseo Galiani, NS - Sebastian Galiani &
Paula D'Angelo

Charlie Halcomb, NS - Jim & Liza Halcomb

Athena Kyrychenko, NF - Hermann Kyrychenko &
Gwendalyn Randolph

Ryan Mayes, NF - Jeremy & Anne Mayes

Drew Messey, NS - Rick Messey &
Lisa Prinster Messey

Wyatt Moller, NS - Glenn & Jenne Moller

Raphael Rosario-Blake, NS - Ruben Rosario &
Betsy Blake

Deven Shah, NS - Amit Shah & Beth Fisher

Greta Stucke, NS - Chuck Stucke &
Kaisa Leena Stucke

Tyler Woods, NS - Jason & Jennifer Woods

Amy Yamilov, NF - Alexey Yamilov &
Julia Medvedeva

Junior Kindergarten

Isabel Bour, NF - Olivia Bour

Alexander Hogenson, NF - Andrew &
Amy Hogenson

Emily Ruben, NS - Andrew Ruben & Leila Sadat

Ian Whitley, NF - Lee & Marsha Whitley

Senior Kindergarten

Lana Bogan, NF - Ryan & Jill Bogan

Abby Gray, NF - Peter & Molly Gray

Pilar Ludtke, NF - Erik & Laura Ludtke

Tristan McKean, NF - Chris & Melanie McKean

Coleman Mercé, NF - Fernando & K.C. Mercé

Brynn Moller, NS - Glen & Jenne Moller

Maxim Yamilov, NF - Alexey Yamilov &
Julia Medvedeva

First Grade

Adrienne Sayad, NF - Gentry Sayad & Lysa Sayad

Second Grade

Sebastian Mercé, NF - Fernando & K.C. Mercé

Third Grade

Hugh Bogan, NF - Ryan & Jill Bogan

Caleb Thompson, NF - Nate & Jeannette Thompson

Fourth Grade

Kenneth Damper, NF - Herbert & Jocelyn Damper

Lily Sayad, NF - Gentry Sayad & Lysa Sayad



Pre-Kindergarten Is Off To An Exciting Start

By Pre-Kindergarten Teachers Linda Roth and Debbie Wilhelms



We are off to a wonderful school year. All of the children are settling in and getting comfortable with our daily routine. We started the year with the theme *All About Me*. It is exciting to learn about the likes and dislikes of our students. We are a very diverse group. We have many children who have English as a second or even third language. So while the children are learning English, the teachers are learning a little French, Spanish, and Russian. We seem to be a class that likes to cut and create. The children are very busy each day creating new things and discovering new projects to do. We love books on tape and counting objects and patterning. We love singing new songs and learning finger plays. We have made new friends and love

playing on the playground with them. The morning that we met our Fourth Grade buddies was so exciting. It is wonderful observing the children each Wednesday as they get to know each other and the relationships begin to form. For our second theme of the year, we did a review and learned new things in our *Concepts Galore* unit. We worked on naming shapes and finding these shapes all around us. We made secondary colors using



primary colors, and then we created a masterpiece with the new paint. We work daily on rhyming, reading our name and developing our fine motor skills. We are becoming very independent and are doing a good job of being kind to one another.

First Grade Has An Exciting, New Literacy Program

By First Grade Teachers Rachel Dixon and Penny Lyles



This year in first grade, we are making a great effort to pair our study of genres with other classroom units of study. In September, as part of our exploration into alphabet books, the students will be creating their own alphabet book. This coordinates with our science unit around animals. Each student has been assigned an animal (from alligator to zebra). They research their animal in the classroom, during technology, and through a trip to the zoo as they work to create their own page in our alphabet book. In January, we will combine our study of biographies with our traditional “Famous Americans” research project.

Our discussion of biographical elements will aid students in locating the most interesting information about their famous American. The year will culminate with a discussion of nonfiction literature. Students will learn how information is presented in nonfiction books and about the graphic organizers we often see in these types of books. First graders will then work to create short nonfiction books about different aspects of weather (our final science unit of the year).

Both Penny Lyles and Rachel Dixon were fortunate to be able to participate jointly in the Fontbonne Summer Literacy Institute in July. While there, they brainstormed many ideas about how to enhance the first grade literacy program. They are excited to present a more structured workshop model in their classroom this year. Students will spend their entire mornings on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays in *Reader’s Workshop*. They will participate in a wide variety of centers that will support the development of the many components of reading (from decoding, to fluency and comprehension). The entirety of Tuesday and Thursday mornings are spent in *Writer’s Workshop*. This will offer time for free writing, conferencing and publishing. Additionally, students will focus on the work of the current “featured author.” The “featured author” is a hallmark of the first grade curriculum and exposes the students to many fabulous authors and their bodies of work. The class will discuss the “craft moves” of the featured author (i.e. what trademarks they are known for that enhance their writing). Writing groups will meet to discuss how students may borrow these craft moves to further develop their own writing. Penny and Rachel are very excited about the new schedule.

First grade is off to a fabulous start. Stay tuned for a later edition of the *Wilson Word* to hear updates on our exciting curriculum developments.



Welcome New Wilson Faculty Member



M. Fritz Fahrenkamp
Junior Kindergarten Teacher

Fritz is originally from Chicago, Ill., and has been in St. Louis for over 30 years. Since she feels like a native St. Louisan, you can ask her what high school she went to! She holds a B.S. in Secondary Education in Speech & Arts, and Post-graduate work in Early Childhood Education with certifications in this area as well as Physical Education. She has taught for close to 20 years in St. Louis. Fritz has two grown children, Megan & Colin, both of whom went to Wilson School. She has always cherished the tradition and education that Wilson provided her own children, and is proud and very happy to be a “repeat” teacher here at Wilson School in Junior Kindergarten. Fritz says that being outdoors clears her head and boosts her spirit! She loves the sun and water. Working out, reading, biking, kayaking, going to concerts, live theatre, and dance theatre are some of her favorite things to do. Her family and friends are very important in her life. She feels blessed to have an interesting variety of friends that enrich her life. Fritz also has a sweet dog, Mac, who is her special friend with fur. Welcome, Fritz!



The Read, Right, Run Marathon® will begin Monday October 18. This is a fantastic program organized by “GO! St Louis.” The program is designed for students in Senior Kindergarten through sixth grade. The goal of the program is to develop reading-proficient, community-minded, physically fit students. Participants are challenged to READ 26 books, RIGHT the community with 26 good deeds, and RUN 26.2 miles, over a six month period. Participating students are invited to join the Monday running club. We will meet most Mondays, beginning October 17. More information on Wilson’s participation in the program and instructions for registration can be found in the September 16 Friday Folder.

Speaker Series 2011-2012 (see full story on p. 8)

Thursday, October 6 -- 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Dr. Judy Willis, M.D. M.Ed.

“How Emotion Impacts the Brain’s Successful Learning”

Thursday, February 9 -- 7:00 – 8:30 PM

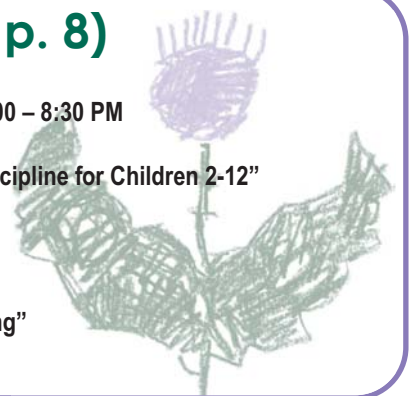
Dr. Thomas Phelan, Ph.D.

“1-2-3 Magic: Effective Discipline for Children 2-12”

Thursday, March 1 -- 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Annie Fox, M.Ed.

“Why 21st Century Kids Need 21st Century Parenting”





Parents' Association Fall Highlights

By PA President Megan Philip

Mark your calendars and get set to go for these upcoming PA events!

- The **Scholastic Book Fair** takes place in the gym before and after school September 19-23 and before the PA meeting on September 21. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact co-chairs **Rachel Rose** and **Angela Zeng**.
- The first **Used Book Drop** for our spring sale will be on Wednesday, September 21. Do a little bit of back-to-school cleaning and bring your beach reading to us! Thanks to **Marni Dillard** and **Sarah Griesbach** for coordinating.
- What does the PA have planned for this year and how can you be involved? Find out by coming to the **Fall Parents' Association Meeting** on September 21 in the gym (Book Fair opens at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins promptly at 7 p.m.). Childcare and pizza will be provided, and the Student Council will treat us to a presentation on this year's MYMAGO theme.
- Fall favorite, **Cosmic Bowl**, goes into orbit on Friday, September 30 at Tropicana Lanes. You'll be hearing from co-chairs **Marni Dillard** and **Jennifer Moller** on how to get in on the fun.
- And, in the "new and exciting" category, the inaugural **Autumn Boutique** at The Wilson School will be held the evening of October 13 (open to the public- invite your friends and family!). Kudos to **Melinda Bierman** for orchestrating this! More information coming soon ...

An early round of applause goes to:

- The **Raney Family** and **Shannon Parker** for providing coffee and muffins, respectively, on the first day of school.
- **Susan Purnell** for getting out another wonderful yearbook.
- **Tiwi Rush**, for coordinating our Birthday Bulletin Board (left side of school foyer). Stop by to see which students are celebrating August and September birthdays!
- **Terri Fujii** for heading up Wilson Wear once again. Please ask her if you have questions about ordering Wilson items year-round from Land's End.
- **Heather Akred**, **Renee Dufner** and **Jennifer Moller** for chairing the Innisbrook sale. This is the PA's biggest fundraiser and is vital to many of the great activities and events we support. The deadline for submitting orders is September 23, so you still have a week left to sell that paper (and those chocolates and travel tumblers and candles ...)!

I look forward to seeing you on September 21 at 7:00pm. Please contact me at PA@wilsonschool.com if you have questions.



PE Students Focus On Cooperation and Good sportsmanship

By PE Teacher Rachel Simpson



Physical education is off to a running start! Lower and Upper School students have been laying the foundation for sports and games by participating in activities that focus on cooperation and good sportsmanship. Students are getting back into the swing of pacing while running longer distances, using proper form for muscular strength conditioning and flexibility. In addition to our fitness pursuits, soccer is the first sport unit we are focusing on, followed by field hockey and flag football.

Pre-Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten students have been practicing their locomotor movements. It takes balance, strength, and coordination to master the skills of galloping, skipping, hopping, jumping and running. They love listening to music while moving around the gym. Emphasis is placed on maintaining personal space as they maneuver safely amongst their classmates. They practice moving in straight, zig-zag, and curved pathways. All of these skills translate to tag games, and a variety of sport skills. The students are wonderful at showing off their imagination and creativity. In addition to a variety of locomotor movements, students explore manipulative skills such as throwing, catching, and kicking. They will use a variety of equipment as they explore and grow.



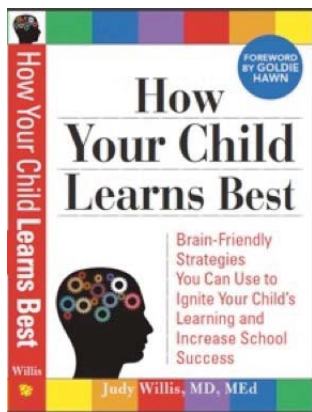
Speaker Series 2011-2012

Thursday, October 6

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Judy Willis, M.D. M.Ed.

“How Emotion Impacts the Brain’s Successful Learning”



Some children become more discouraged about their abilities with each passing year of school. Others become increasingly frustrated and bored when retaught things they have already mastered or find no personal relevance in the information they must learn. We attribute some of the blame to multimedia and video games, but if those are so compelling what can we learn from them?

Neuroscience has spotlighted many of the stresses that cause children to “act out” or “zone out” and what neural processes are involved in the fight/flight/freeze behaviors that the brain is programmed to resort to in times of stress. Further research suggests how the components of video game playing promote sustained motivation and perseverance, even though gamers are incorrect over 80% of the time.

The video game model that activates perseverance can be applied to learning experiences at school and at home so children develop the thinking habits they need to succeed in school, work, and life. The key is providing learning experiences that fit

children’s individual levels of achievable challenge and provide frequent feedback about their incremental progress to desired goals.

You’ll learn about this research and relevant strategies to provide children with the achievable challenges and incremental progress awareness that promote growth mindsets. Through neuro-logical interventions, children recognize their potentials to grow their intelligence and skill with hard work. Parents and educators can apply the insights of neuroscience and the video game model to help children develop goal-directed habits of mind as they recognize that genius is more than genes.



About Judy Willis, M.D., M.Ed.

Dr. Judy Willis is an authority on brain research regarding learning and the brain. With the unique background as both a neurologist and classroom teacher, she writes extensively for professional educational journals and has written six books about applying the mind, brain, and education research to classroom teaching strategies.

Currently, Dr. Willis is on the adjunct faculty of the Graduate School of Education, University of California, gives neuroeducation presentations, and conducts professional development workshops nationally and internationally about educational strategies correlated with neuroscience research.

To register: Please email name(s), contact email or phone #, and name of school (if you are an educator) for all attendees to: speakerseries@wilsonschool.com



It's Time For Trivia!

Announcing the 3rd Annual Wilson School Trivia Night
Saturday, October 22 at The Wilson School

All proceeds benefit our Scholarship and
Tuition Assistance Fund

Cost: \$20/person (Tables of 10)

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Trivia questions will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

Reservation deadline is October 10

Reservation forms are available in September 16 Friday Folder,
at the PA meeting September 21,
and on the Wilson School website

Questions?

Contact Linda Roth (lroth@wilsonschool.com)

Fourth Grade Is Ready To Learn

By Fourth Grade Teachers Roberta Goldfeder and Lisa Leuther



It always is exciting to begin a new school year, and this year was no exception. On August 23, 23 fourth graders entered the classroom ready to learn new information and more about themselves and each other.

Fourth graders face many new challenges this year. The daily schedule is fast-paced, varied, and requires the student to employ a great deal of self-discipline to be prepared and on time to their classes. Utilizing effective time-management skills, organizing materials, and discovering helpful study strategies are the foundation of the lessons throughout our program. It is our goal to help each student improve

continued on page 10

Fourth Grade ... continued from page 9



their listening skills, work habits and the focus needed to complete their various assignments. These goals are woven through the curriculum. Each class offers them the opportunity to use their work/study skills to grow as a student. They have folders, binders and spiral notebooks for their various subjects. This gives them one central place to find the materials needed for their math or science classes. It helps a student's confidence when they feel prepared and can locate the information needed for their class.

The MYMAGO theme this year is focused on fairness. Fourth graders will have many opportunities to discover the meaning of that word. It begins with working and playing with their PK friend. Understanding the needs and feelings of a young child is a good place to discover how to play fairly. In our classroom there are many opportunities to understand fairness. Many activities are cooperative and groups are randomly selected. Discovering how to work with a variety of people is not an easy one but very worthwhile when approaching real life experiences. Children understand fairness sometimes much better than adults. We will learn from each other throughout the year.

Fourth graders are going to have a busy year. There will be new concepts to understand and learn, new books to read, new stories to write. Most importantly, they will discover new and exceptional qualities about themselves.

Latin Discoveries

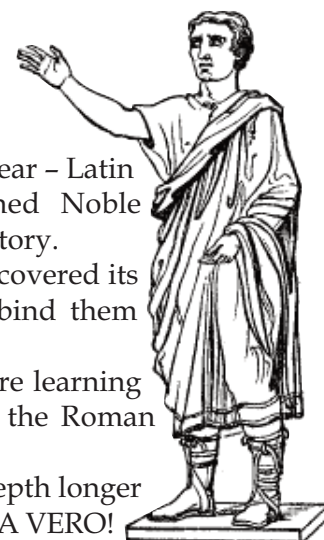
By Latin Teacher Joana Ocros-Ritter

Relatives of Noble Romans, SALVETE! What a great beginning we've had this year - Latin is a long-awaited, anxiously anticipated subject, and the aforementioned Noble Romans seem more than ready to take on Latin vocabulary, geography and history.

The fourth-grade family, the AUREII, part of our VILSONII clan, has already discovered its members Roman names ... yet mystery is still surrounding the exact ties that bind them together. When we will see their BULLAS, we will know ...

Our older and wiser V. graders, known among ourselves as the AVESLANII, are learning about Roman cities in Britannia, Hadrian's wall and the travails of daily life in the Roman forward to running for political office later this year.

The GLAUCI, our sixth-grade Noble Romans are experiencing the first real, in-depth longer texts, weekly homework and definitely rejoicing in frequent examinations ... hmmm, TA VERO!



French Students Begin To Explore

By French Teacher Joana Ocros-Ritter

Nous revoilà! After a long, hot summer, we are back in full force – the children taller, wiser and ready for more exciting knowledge ...

In PK (where kids seem to be cuter – and littler – by the year!), we have begun our introduction to French by greeting in French, following simple commands and being introduced to “aime,” “de la glace,” “mange,” and other de rigueur delights of early childhood.

In JK, the children are reviewing knowledge acquired last year, be it vocabulary, songs, acting out vocabulary words or re-reading favorite books. Our new students follow the lead of the “old hands” and enjoy learning quite a bit.

In SK, we have vocabulary races, trying to find out how many words we know, and we’ve begun our “reading” sessions – involving our cards and some intervention by *Magic Wand*, who seems to lose his magic ... no matter how hard he tries, the kids still know French!

First graders are a happy and vivacious bunch – happy to learn, happy to share their knowledge with each other and ready to move into our book “Gérard et ses copains.”

Second grade students got acquainted with Alex, Zoé and their friends Croquetout, Mamie, Basile, and Loulou, not to forget Rodolphe le dragon! We will begin our listening exercises very soon, followed by finger puppets and vocabulary galore.

In third grade, we review last year’s vocabulary and will be ready (by the time you read this) to move into new and exciting territory – games, interactive materials, reading and writing.

Fourth graders, our youngest “old” kids, are the absolute pioneers in reading and writing this year. They are working in completely new books, with special attention given to the written expression this year.

In fifth grade, our students also explore new territory by working in the next level of our series “Alex & Zoé,” bringing them ever closer to a Level B1 in language acquisition!

Sixth graders have begun their journey into the heart of Le Nouveau Monde, better known as Nouvelle France and la Louisiane Française. The students have picked their French colonial names and we are preparing for our first field trip of the year on September 30, which will take us to Ste. Geneviève.

À très bientôt!





September & October Events

Sept. 19-23	Scholastic Book Fair
Sept. 19	Primary Grades (1-3) Parent Cocktail Party
Sept. 20	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sept. 21	Used Book Drop
Sept. 21	Fall PA Meeting
Sept. 23	School Picture Day (Rain Date)
Sept. 26	Upper Grades (4-6) Parent Cocktail Party
Sept. 28	Assembly – BBC & Theme Launch
Sept. 30	Cosmic Bowl
Oct. 6	Speaker Series – Judy Willis
Oct. 13	Autumn Boutique
Oct. 14	No School – Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 18	Board of Trustees Meeting
Oct. 22	Trivia Night
Oct. 23-26	ISACS Accreditation Team Visit
Oct. 26	Assembly – BBC
Oct. 28	No School – Faculty Professional Day
Oct. 31	Morning Coffee for Parents
Oct. 31	Halloween Assembly & Parade

Check the Wilson School website for more dates and details:

www.wilsonschoool.com

