

WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Kindness Lives at Willow

Vol. 6 issue 5



Upcoming:

12/22-1/2/26-Winter Recess

1/19/26 - MLK Day



January Cornwall Trait

Integrity-

To use good judgement
and conduct oneself
according to a sense of
what is right and wrong



with Mrs. Gandolfini &
Mrs. Sweeney

In January it's so nice to learn about animals that like snow and ice.

Hibernation, Migration and Adaptation, too, in this New Year there is so much to do!

We will write facts using what these animals are, have and can. Our writing will really begin to expand!

In science we will study forces and motion. With a lot of hands-on experiments we will learn a lot about this notion.

In Math there is so much to know ,adding from 1-5, off we go.

Our reading groups are in full swing, listening to them read is like hearing a pretty bird sing!! Practice at home and keep it going-this way their confidence will keep on growing.

Class Books are coming home, so please treat them with care.

We need them back weekly because the whole class needs to share.

We hope you are practicing the sight words on your WORD WALL-make it a game and have a BALL.

Lastly, PLEASE dress warm a hat with gloves or MITTENS
because we go out for recess this will keep us warm as a KITTEN!!

Website:
www.cornwallschools.com

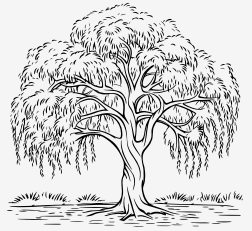


Follow us on Instagram:
[@willowavenuees](https://www.instagram.com/willowavenuees)

WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Kindness Lives at Willow



Mrs. Berchielli &
Miss Karlson

It has been a joyful and busy month in first grade! Our classroom has been filled with lots of holiday fun and seasonal activities that brought extra excitement and smiles to our days. Students have loved celebrating the season together while continuing to grow as learners.

This month we also began library enrichment for the second trimester. Students are building their love of reading through this special time each week.

It was wonderful meeting with families during parent conferences to discuss each child's progress. Thank you for your continued support and partnership—it truly makes a difference as students continue to make great strides in reading, writing, and math.

As we head into the winter season, curling up with a good book is always a great idea! Some cozy read-aloud suggestions include *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson, and *Snowmen at Night* by Caralyn Buehner.

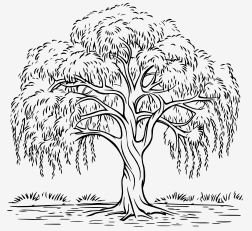
December has been full of learning and holiday cheer, and we look forward to all that the new year will bring!

Mrs. Byrne & Mrs. Santos



Sensational second graders are learning how to problem solve using double digit addition and subtraction strategies.

We have completed our Erosion unit and worked in design crews to save the sand castles! Ask us what materials work best to prevent erosion! In writing, we are wrapping up our narrative unit and will be moving towards informative. In Social Studies we have finished our citizenship unit and are moving towards urban, suburban and rural communities after break. We have read many books embracing the winter months! Have a healthy and happy holiday break!



We all came back refreshed from our winter holiday break and we got right to work. To set a focus for the new year, our third graders completed a project called, "One Word" during the first week back. The students thought about goals that they wanted to achieve in their personal and school life. Then, they wrote down what they wanted others to say about them at the end of 2026. Finally, they decided on a word and created a presentation using Google Slides. Our students loved this project! They are proudly hanging outside our classrooms. We are finishing up our multiplication facts fluency with 7s, 8s, and 9s. We are continuing to learn about division in math, and then will be using what we learned about multiplication and division when we start our next unit in math on Area. With Martin Luther King Jr. day coming up, we will explore his impact and contributions in our society. We are learning how to write a narrative and will be completing our pourquoi (a narrative that explains why) using Book Creator. Afterwards, we will begin learning how to research so we can become experts on frogs. In Social Studies, we are learning about the geography, economy, and government of the United States. Ms. Mante and Mrs. Hogan would like to share a wish for our students and their families for the 2026 year: "I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something." —Neil Gaiman

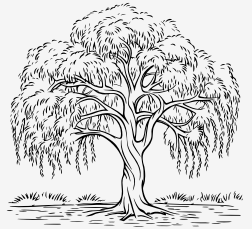


Mrs. Hogan &
Ms. Mante

December went dashing on by! The fourth grade delighted in learning multiplication and delved into mastering their math facts. Both classes continue to learn about the Native Americans that first inhabited New York State. They look forward to reading Sign of the Beaver so that they can uncover and make connections to our social studies curriculum. Later in January, we will explore the different ways that Energy in motion can be transferred to other objects. The students wrote wonderful three-paragraph essays on all of the ways that they "Light Up The Holidays" with their friends and families. All in all, both classes delighted in celebrating "Holidays in the Hallways" with their classmates and teachers. We want to extend a big thank you to all the parents who donated to or participated in any or all of the holiday festivities! We are looking forward to a well-deserved field trip on January 16, 2026, to URBAN AIR where the students will participate in a STEAM activity while putting their bodies in motion. We wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year!



Mrs. Cleaves &
Ms. Merante



tidbits of mOTivation with Mrs. Lucia

Fidget Tools: Setting Expectations

How many fidgets will your child receive?

Fidget tools are very exciting for students, both at home and at school! As the adults, it is our job to help our children use them effectively by setting clear rules and boundaries.

Why are fidgets helpful?

Fidgets are commonly used to help people manage:

- ★ Anxiety
- ★ Frustration
- ★ Agitation
- ★ Boredom
- ★ High excitement

They are also a valuable coping strategy for individuals with sensory needs.

Our Fidget Rules Poem

Please review this poem with your child. It clearly communicates the boundaries for using these tools, ensuring they are a helpful aid and not a distraction:

When I can't sit still, My fidget helps me chill.

It doesn't distract me, Or my friends around me.

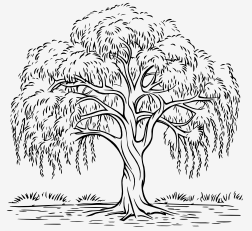
I do not throw, swing or hit, I can hold, squeeze or rub it.

My body stays quiet, And my fidget stays private.

My eyes stay straight ahead, Not on my fidget instead.



Megan Lucia OTR/L



December Principal Award Winners

Davis B.
Nia C.
Elliott F.
Isabella H.
Avery L.
Liam M.
Roman N.
Adaline S.
Margot S.

Benjamin C.
Charlotte C.
Allana G.
Ella K.
Bodhi M.
Emma M.
Jaxon N.
Edward S.
Corinne U.



January Birthdays:

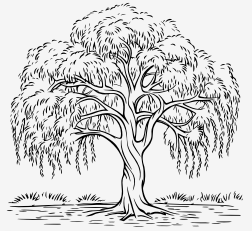
1/6: Henry W. – Kindergarten
1/7: Ryan C. – 2nd Grade
1/7: Robert S. – 4th Grade
1/8: Matthew P. – 3rd Grade
1/10: Aria E. – 1st Grade
1/11: Angel C. – Kindergarten
1/14: Bodhi M. – Kindergarten
1/14: Amelia B. – 3rd Grade
1/16: Bryce L. – 4th Grade
1/16: Isabella L. – 4th Grade
1/18: Jaxon N. – 2nd Grade
1/21: Charles M. – 3rd Grade
1/22: Oliver W. – 1st Grade
1/24: Matthew S. – 2nd Grade
1/24: Aiden I. – 2nd Grade
1/27: Adaline S. – Kindergarten
1/27: Aiden S. – Kindergarten
1/31: Marlee G. – 2nd Grade



WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Kindness Lives at Willow



I can't believe we are already at winter break, our school year is whizzing by! We have been working on fun winter projects in the art room- from painted snowmen in Kindergarten, to drawn evergreen trees in first grade, paper snowflakes with second grade and winter themed origami bookmarks and drawn gingerbread houses with third & fourth grade. I hope everyone has a restful winter break and we'll see you back in the art studio in 2026!

-Mrs. Butler



Please note - Send your student in with jackets due to the colder weather as they go outside for recess and PE Class. Also, if your family has a need and could benefit from support for food or winter coats please contact our Food Services Department to complete the confidential paperwork. See our website



Caring Hands with Nurse Katie

Frigid temperatures mean that heaters are on, wood stoves are cranking, and houses are getting cozy. This is your reminder to replace all of the batteries in your fire and CO2 detectors. Gas, pellet / wood burning stoves, insert / fireplace all produce carbon monoxide. CO2 is odorless, and tasteless which makes CO2 alarms a necessity. Fire alarms and CO2 alarms save lives!

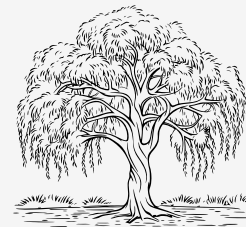
Some additional home heating tips from NYS Dept of Health:

- Keep children and pets away from space heaters and fireplaces.
 - Keep the heater away from things that can burn, such as furniture, rugs or curtains. Follow the manufacturer's advice about installation, placement and use.
 - Unplug space heaters when not in use.
 - Place heater level and on the floor so it won't tip over. Make sure no nearby items can fall onto the heater and ignite.
 - Avoid using ungrounded wiring or extension cords.
- Cheers to a safe, cozy January!

WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Kindness Lives at Willow



Kids in Motion with Ms. Nissen

Happy New Year!

The month of January will be a busy month in PE. Students will be finishing the Jump Rope and Basketball Units with Chinese Jump Ropes and Basketball skill games. Older students will participate in modified scrimmage games. Floor Hockey, Parachute, and the beginning of our Volleyball Unit will round out the month!



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

Warm
winter
wishes

Stay in the Know with our Willow Ave PTO

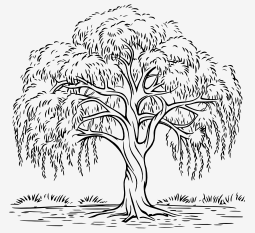
Time flies when you're having fun,
and this December may have been the best one!

Gingerbread cookie decorating was a blast!
Followed by Holiday Shopping, the fun always lasts!

The Music Man production is off to a great start,
We know this years performance will be off the chart!

Our PTO is so grateful for your support and our volunteers.
Have a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year!





Ms. Zawacki's Mindful Moment

Keep in Touch:

**Email: kzawacki@cornwallschools.com or
845-534-8009- ext 3026**

This month's Character Trait is Integrity, which means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching!

What are some ways you can show Integrity?

- Being honest
- Take responsibility for your actions
- Admitting when you make a mistake
- Keeping your promises
- Not spreading gossip
- Following rules at home, school and in the community
- Treating family and friends with respect

The holiday season and cooler weather are here! If your family has a need for food or winter coats, please contact The Food Services Department to complete the confidential paperwork.

*Let's
talk it
out!*



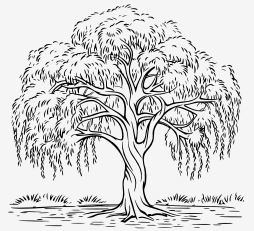
Bookmarks from our Librarian - Mrs. Ebenhoe

January is an exciting time in the book world.

- The Best Books of 2026 lists are coming out online. American Library Association, Barnes & Noble, New York Times; these are just a few sites that give you their best lists. Check them out!
- The Caldecott and Newbery will be chosen at the end of January, along with other notable awards being given.
- Students are also invited to begin reading to participate in our state-wide, annual selection of the 3 Apples Award. 3 Apples is a New York state reading award where the list of nominees is chosen by children. If a student reads three or more titles from the reading list, he or she is eligible to vote for a winner in their age bracket (K-2, 3-6). Reading lists will be posted on students' Google Classrooms and in the library. Voting will be done over the month of April. Contact Mrs. Ebenhoe for any questions.

With the possibility of delays and snow days, please be sure to keep your child's library book in their backpacks, so they will have them when schedules permit a make-up book exchange.

Remember, if you're at home with nothing to read, check out Sora, an e-book and audio platform available through your student's Google account. Enjoy the snow!



JANUARY SPEECH NEWS

Happy New Year Speechies!



Themes

- Winter
- Weather
- Arctic animals
- Hibernation

Children benefit from having repeated exposure to a vocabulary words in order to improve retention and generalization to the classroom.

Practice

Take a look outside, how would you describe the weather? Use your words for this month to talk about how it feels and looks outside! Give a synonym (same meaning) or antonym (different meaning) to define the words and use them in a sentence.



Activities

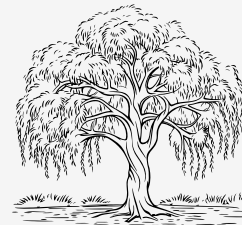
In speech this month, we'll be making snowflake buddies and snowflakes out of cotton balls for a winter wonderland effect, while focusing on our speech goals!

Vocabulary

Here are some of the vocabulary words your child will be exposed to during therapy:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| • arctic | • icy |
| • blizzard | • melt |
| • breeze | • mittens |
| • earmuffs | • penguin |
| • freeze | • polar bear |
| • frigid | • scarf |
| • hibernation | • snowtubing |
| • hot cocoa | • snowboard |
| • ice skates | • thermometer |
| • skis | • walrus |
| • icicle | • windy |





RHYTHM & NEWS

MS. TREACY'S MUSIC CLASS UPDATES



JANUARY
2026

20
26

January brings a fresh start and lots of musical momentum to the music room! Students across all grade levels are exploring new skills, instruments, and ideas as we kick off 2026 with creativity and confidence!

Grade-by-Grade Highlights

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth graders are developing their skills as thoughtful listeners by learning how to form supported musical opinions. As the fourth graders begin music enrichment, they will be analyzing and comparing a variety of musical genres, using new vocabulary to explain what they hear, like, and notice. In chorus, they will begin sight reading and getting acquainted with our new spring repertoire!

THIRD GRADE

Third grade recorder players are chugging right along through the recorder curriculum! Students will be adding the notes E, D, and C to their musical vocabulary, opening the door to lots of new songs! Successful musicians are proudly earning colorful "Recorder Karate" belts as a celebration of their hard work and growing skills.

SECOND GRADE

Second graders are continuing to build digital literacy through music-making. Be sure to check Google Classroom for upcoming photos and videos showcasing this exciting hands-on learning process! Additionally, we will continue to focus on the woodwind instrument family, and get started reading music on the treble staff using space notes.

FIRST GRADE & KINDERGARTEN

Our youngest musicians are adding woodwind instruments to their flipbooks while welcoming the new year with a festive song and dragon dance. They are also growing in confidence by singing solos and using their voices expressively. It's sure to be a joyful and energetic start to the 2026 in the music room!



In The Spotlight

Instrument Family Focus	Woodwind
Instrument of the Month	The Oboe
Composer of the Month	John Williams



Want to practice at home? You can find **games, quizzes, and other resources** to strengthen all of these musical skills on my [Google Classroom page](#). Thank you for your continued support of our music program!

