WORD Jan. 2024

IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES

January 4 Students Return

January 10 Board Meeting

January 12 Early Release

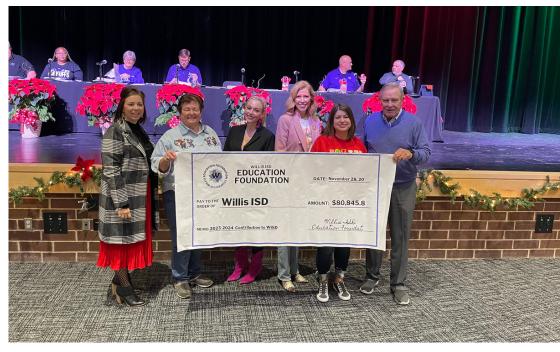
January 15 MLK Day Student / Staff Holiday

February 19 Presidents Day

Student Holiday Staff Development Day

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Willis HS Automotive students host first car show
- LES students stuff stockings for veterans
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Willis ISD Education Foundation hosts grant patrol

At a board meeting on December 13, the Willis ISD Education Foundation announced the total dollar amount of grants from their grant patrol earlier in December. This year, the foundation awarded \$80,845.80 in grants back to Willis ISD teachers and classrooms.

We cannot wait to see our instructors utilize these grants in the classroom!

A WORD FROM OUR Superintendent

Happy New Year, Willis families!

I hope your holidays and New Year away from school were wonderful. District and Campus administrators spent the last two days with our educators in staff development sessions, learning and preparing for a busy spring semester. We are excited to start the new year with you and your students!



FEATURES

Willis ISD students enjoy Christmas at the Barn

On Friday, December 8, students enjoyed the Christmas at the Barn event hosted by Willis High School CTE students. The evening was filled with games, crafts, face painting, and other fun activities. Santa even made a special appearance to take photos with students and spread some holiday cheer!



















Two Willis HS students sign early with UF and SHSU

On December 20, during a special signing event hosted in the Willis High School cafeteria, DJ Lagway and Josiah Stephens signed letters of intent to play football for the University of Florida and Sam Houston State University. Media outlets from across the state attended the event hoping to interview the Wildkat's record-breaking quarterback moments after officially signing with the Florida Gators.

Congratulations to these two athletes! We can't wait to see what this next stage holds for them.













Parmley Elementary hosts Reindeer Run















Willis CTE Cosmetology hosts holiday-themed Salon Day

Willis High School Cosmetology students hosted a fun holiday-themed Salon Day on December 9 at the district's CTE facility! Members of the community were invited to book hair, skin or nail appointments and enjoy a day of pampering.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support these students and the program!

















Willis HS Automotive students host first Car Show

The Willis High School Automotive Program hosted its first Car/Bike Show and Toy Drive at the CTE in early December! The event was a massive success, with many community members coming out to show their support.

Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the holiday fun!









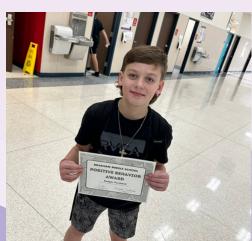
Brabham MS students earn positive referrals

Before the start of Winter Break, over 50 Brabham Middle School students were surprised with an ice cream party for receiving positive referral nominations. Each attending student was given a certificate with the name of the teacher who nominated them and an ice cream sandwich to enjoy. Reasons for positive referral nominations ranged from remaining engaged and present in the classroom to providing a helping hand to a teacher or student.









MINIMA FEATURES

Lagway Elementary students stuff stockings for veterans

On Thursday, December 7, Lagway Elementary's Student Council was surprised by a visit from Staff Sergeant Terynie Victor and First Lieutenant Corey Moore. The students filled stockings with supplies and created thank-you cards for Soldiers' Angels, a charity organization that supports veterans and active duty service members.

Thank you to Staff Sergeant Terynie Victor and First Lieutenant Corey Moore for taking the time to visit our district and answer student questions!







Willis HS Cheer win big in Galveston

Congratulations to the Willis High School Cheer competition team on placing first in the Performance and Game Day categories at the United Cheer Galveston Championship during the weekend of December 8-10.







Congratulations to these Hope Academy graduates!









Hardy Elementary hosts Camp Learn-a-Lot











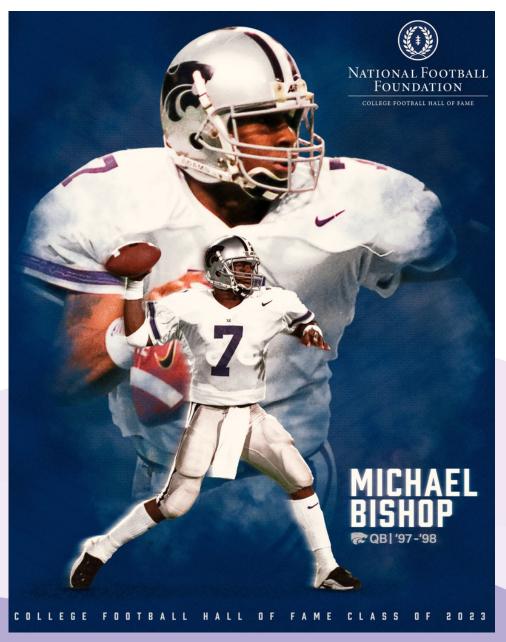




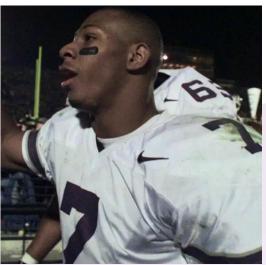
MINIMA FEATURES

Willis HS Alum inducted into College Football Hall of Fame

On December 5, former Willis High School Alum Michael Bishop was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in a ceremony hosted at the ARIA Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Bishop was recognized for his outstanding college football career at Kansas State. While there, Bishop was a Fiesta Bowl Champion, a two-time NJCAA National Champion, and was runner-up for the 1998 Heisman Trophy.







<u>Photos from the</u> <u>Houston Chronicle</u>

MINIMATES

Campuses celebrate 12 Days of Christmas

















MICHATURES

Campuses celebrate 12 Days of Christmas













MINIMA FEATURES

Campuses celebrate 12 Days of Christmas













Congratulations DJ Lagway on these state and national recognitions





Willis ISD December Board Meeting Recap

On Wednesday, December 13, the Board of Trustees held a regular meeting at the Willis ISD Performing Arts Center at the Willis High School campus. The change in location for this board meeting was only for the December meeting, and January's meeting will be held in its regular location at the Sharon Hill Jennette Administration Building.

After opening the meeting with public comments, the board convened into closed session.

Once the board reconvened, Meador Elementary students Noah Burks, Machelle Morgan and Madelyn Lewis led the pledges and prayer before the district's Elementary Student of the Month was announced. Receiving this distinction was Meador fourth-grade student Grady Mitchell.

Mrs.Tamara Good, Principal of Meador Elementary, said, "Besides his academic excellence, Grady also has a creative, funny sense of humor. He likes to tell us about his hunting adventures and fun times with his family and little sister. He is kind and courteous to everyone and the first to step in and help whenever he sees a need."

After naming the elementary representative, Brabham Middle School recognized the district's Secondary Student of the Month, eighth-grader Jafet Beltran Serrano.

"Jafet is always the first to volunteer for any task, answer a question or help a friend who is struggling. He gives 100 percent to any task in RLA and is an excellent writer. He is also kind and helpful and truly emulates Bobkat values," Danielle Hunnicutt, Assistant Principal of Brabham Middle School, shared.

Once the students of the month had been announced, members of Willis High School's volleyball and football teams were called up to accept their All-District and All-State Awards. High school athletes, trainers and managers are awarded the All-District distinction by maintaining an average of 90 or above during the current semester. Seniors who maintain a cumulative average of 92 or above according to the Texas High School Coaches Association or 94 or above according to the Texas Girls Coaches Association throughout the first 3.5 years of their high school career are eligible to receive the All-State distinction.

The Willis High School Football team was also recognized for their historic season. The Wildkats were named undefeated District, Bi-District and Area Champs and were a Regional Semi-Finalist for the first time since 1993. Quarterback DJ Lagway even nabbed the state record for single-season passing touchdowns at a grand total of 58. With multiple school records broken and state-wide recognition, the team was applauded for their perseverance throughout the season.

After the high school's student-athletes were recognized, the Willis ISD Education Foundation presented the board with the total dollar amount of their annual grant patrol. The foundation presented instructors within the district with \$80,845.80 worth of grants to aid student learning. The funding for these grants was presented to teachers at the beginning of the month during the foundation's grant patrol event.

Other highlights from this month's meeting include a performance by the Meador Elementary Honor Choir and approval of the Willis ISD 2024-25 Course Catalog, out-of-state travel for the culinary arts program and several construction projects.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on January 10, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Willis ISD December Board Meeting Recap (continued)















Congratulations to these spectacular Willis HS athletes





SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH



Nikita Lagway Position 1



Paulett Traylor Position 2

Locally Elected, Community Connected **School Board Recognition Month** January 2024

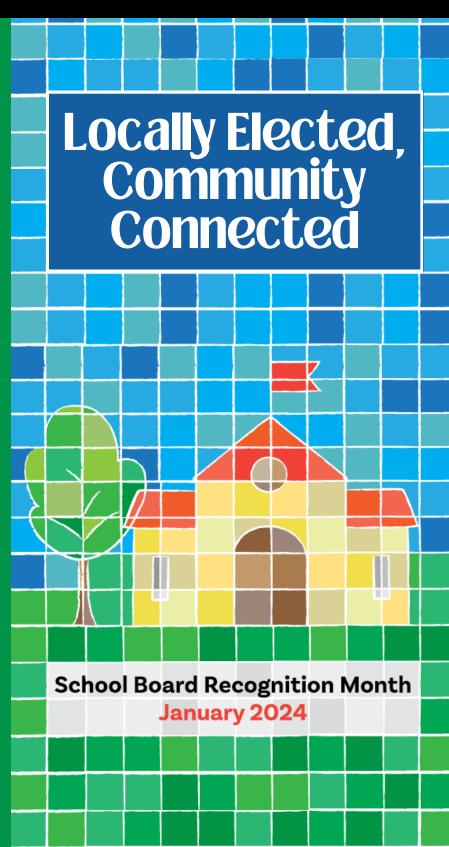
IN THE FEATURES



Scott Carson Position 3



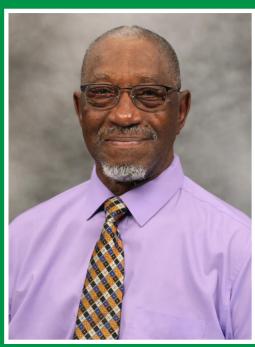
Kyle Hoegemeyer Position 4



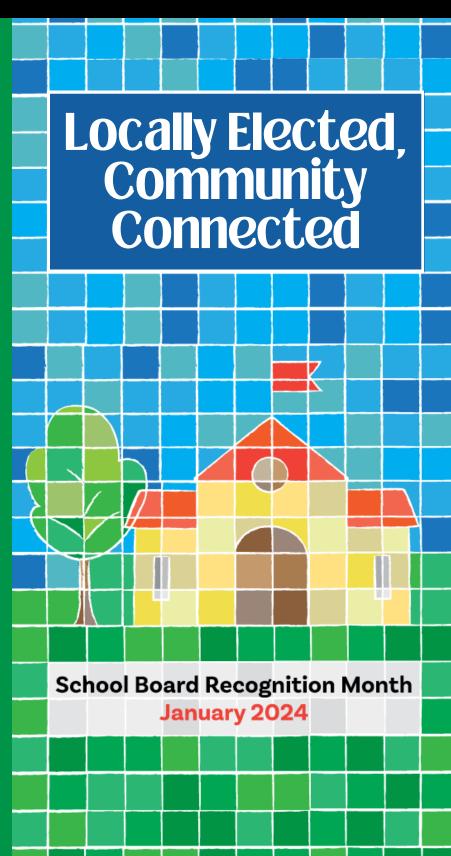
IN THE FEATURES



Cliff Williams Position 5



Charles Perry, Sr. Position 6

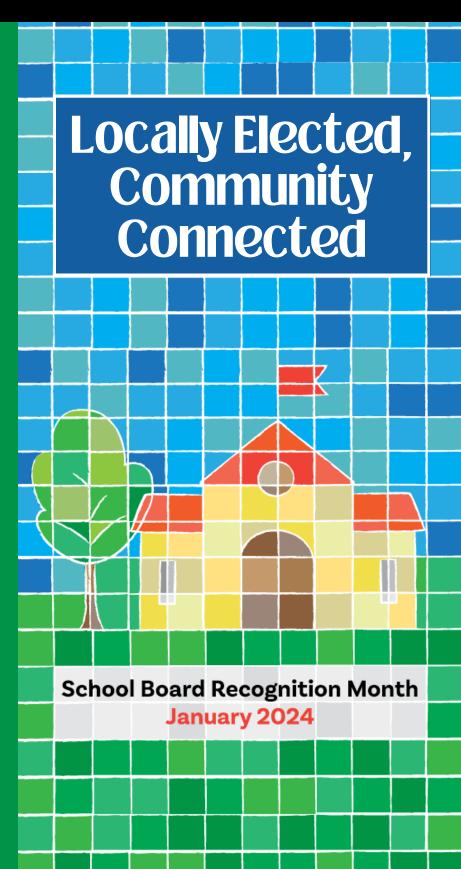


MINIMATES



Chad Jones Position 7

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!



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VARSITY ATHLETICS DATES

FINE ARTS DATES

Boys Basketball

Jan 2 (Home)

Jan 5 (Away)

Jan 9 (Away)

Jan 12 (Home)

Jan 18 (Away)

Jan 19 (Home)

Jan 24 (Away)

Jan 27 (Home)

Wrestling

Jan 5-6 (Away)

Jan 13 (Away)

Jan 17 (Home)

Jan 20 (Away)

Jan 24 (Home)

Jan 27 (Away)

Girls Soccer

Jan 4-6 (Away)

Jan 11-13 (Home)

Jan 16 (Away)

Jan 19 (Home)

Jan 23 (Away)

Jan 26 (Home)

Jan 31 (Away)

Girls Basketball

Jan 2 (Away)

Jan 5 (Home)

Jan 12 (Away)

Jan 16 (Home)

Jan 19 (Away)

Jan 23 (Home)

Jan 26 (Away)

Swim & Dive

Jan 26 (Away)

Jan 27 (Away)

Boys Soccer

Jan 2 (Home)

Jan 4-6 (Home)

Jan 12 (Home)

Jan 16 (Home)

Jan 19 (Away)

Jan 23 (Home)

Jan 26 (Away)

Jan 31 (Home)

Track & Field

Jan 18 (Away)

Jan 27 (Away)

WHS Musical <u>Performance</u> January 26-27 7:00-9:30 PM

@ WHS Performing Arts Center

Incoming 6th Grade

Band Instrument Interview

January 29-30

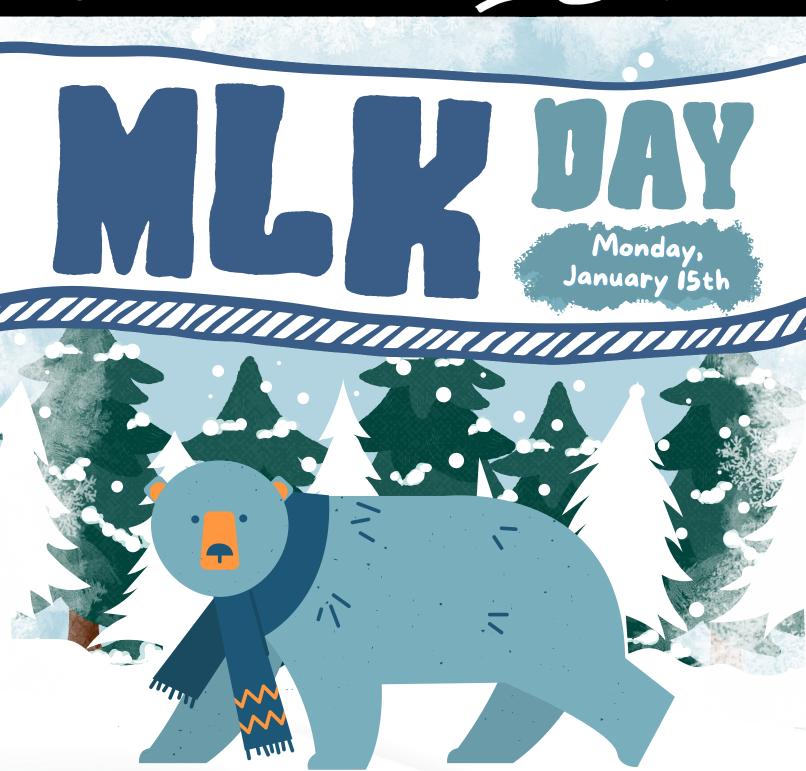
6:00 PM-8:30 PM

@ Willis High School



<u>VIEW THE FULL FINE ARTS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE</u>







Paper is available to all 3rd-12th grade Willis ISD students.

Visit <u>app.paper.co</u> to log in.

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Need help with schoolwork?

Calling all students! Did you know that you have free tutoring help and writing support - for any subject - on your computer, tablet, or smartphone?

Paper helps you succeed

Live Chat

Connect with a tutor to ask any question, any time!



What is an adjective?

Can you help with long division?

Review Center

Upload any written work for expert feedback!

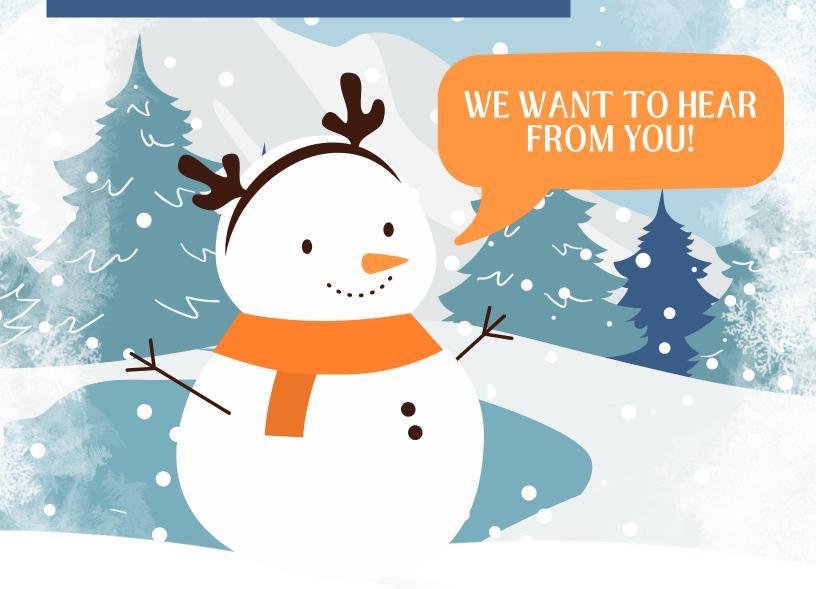
Can you look over my paragraph?



Log in using Clever



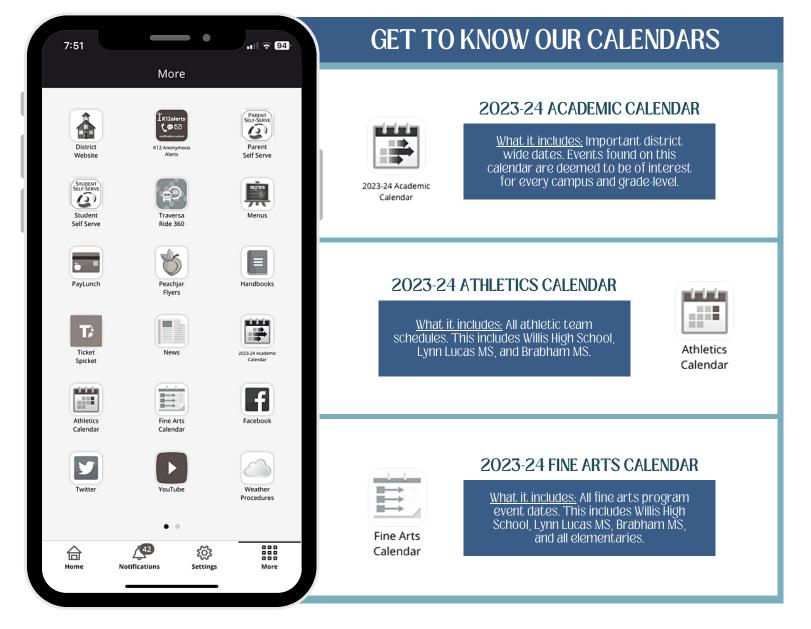
HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FEATURE?



FILL OUT THE CLASSROOM VISIT FORM <u>HERE</u> OR SEND YOUR STORY AND PHOTOS TO WISDCOMMUNICATIONS@WILLISISD.ORG

Want to stay in the know while on the go?

All event calendars for the 2023-24 school year are located in the "More" tab of our app.



The Voice of the Wildkats

Need your daily Willis News fix? The Wildkat Word is only published once a month, but The Voice of the Wildkats is updated every day! Ran by a talented group of journalism students at Willis High School, the "Voice" is a great way to stay up-to-date on campus news.

The Voice of the Wildkats online received the Online Newspaper Distinguished Merit honors from ILPC and was nominated for a star in 2021. The website was also named a Distinguished Site by School Newspapers Online (SNO). Staff members compete in contests sponsored by ILPC and TAJE. Three members were also named All-State Journalists by ILPC.

Check out the voice behind the words at wildkats.org!



<u>Visit</u>

Around Campus
Features
Wildkat Sports
Views
Entertainment
Fine Arts
Multimedia

Learn more about the staff behind the "Voice" <u>here</u>.

> Contact the "Voice"



<u>Twitter</u> <u>@wildkatphotos</u> <u>Instagram</u> <u>@voice.of.the.wildkats</u>

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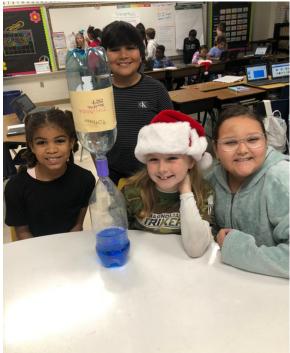
















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WHAT'S THE NORTH

Twitter?



Houston Inside High School Sports @ @ihss houston

Willis Head Coach @CoachTMiller18 turned the @WildkatFootball into an offensive juggernaut averaging 55 points a game. Under Miller, Willis had a record 12 wins and went 10-0 in the regular season for the first time ever. Trent Miller is our @ParkerUniv Coach of the Year #txhsfb



3:46 PM · Dec 27, 2023 · 51.3K Views



CAMPUS FACEBOOK PAGES

Stay up-to-date on all the fun things taking place on your child's campus! Each Willis ISD school has its own Facebook page, where they will be posting to keep you updated on the day-to-day happenings at your student's school.

ROARK EARLY
EDUCATION CENTER
@WISDRoark

AR TURNER ELEMENTARY

<u>@WISDTurner</u>

CANNAN ELEMENTARY

@WISDCannan



CC HARDY ELEMENTARY

@WISDHardy

LAGWAY ELEMENTARY

<u>@WISDLagway</u>

MEADOR ELEMENTARY

@WISDMeador

WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL
@WISDWIllisHS

STUBBLEFIELD ACADEMY

@WISDStubblefield

PARMLEY ELEMENTARY

<u>@WISDParmley</u>

BRABHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
@WISDBrabham

LYNN LUCAS MIDDLE SCHOOL @WISDLynnLucas



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