

Willits Elementary Charter School

www.willitselementarycharter.com

Newsletter

January 22, 2018

Regular School Attendance = Long-term Student Success

Mendocino County has twice the rate of chronically absent students as compared to the state of California. A "chronic absentee" has been defined in California Education Code (EC) Section 60901(c)(1) as "a pupil who is absent on 10 percent or more of the school days in the school year." This includes both excused and unexcused absences.

The *Charter School Association of Willits* board (along with the state of California) has made reducing chronic absenteeism a priority for this year.

There are many long-term effects. *Absences Add Up* notes: "For example, young elementary school students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. But when students are able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, which is when kids transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*, they are three to four times more likely to graduate high school and attend college, post-graduate, or professional development classes than their peers who struggle with reading."

Calling All Bakers!

Last year's live dessert auction at the annual Gala was a great success! This year all proceeds will go to the WECS field trip fund. Please contact Aura or Holli in the front office if you can donate a dessert or would like to volunteer to help with this year's Gala—our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Newspaper Club Seeks Digital Cameras

Old smart phones with a camera also welcome!

Calendar

Charter School Association of Willits Board meetings:
First Tuesday of each month, 4 p.m. Willits Charter School
1431 S. Main St.
Public welcome.

Feb 12:
Parent Meeting: For parents led by parents.
8:45 a.m. Multi-purpose room
3:45 p.m. Room 4

**Feb. 16 and 19:
Presidents Day,
No School**

March 3:
Winter Gala
Little Lake Grange
Doors open at 4 p.m.

**March 16:
Teacher Work Day
No School**

Please remember to inform the office directly if your child will be absent. 459-1400

As always, thank you for supporting WECS!