



Will Carleton Academy

2001 W. Hallett Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242 • 517-437-2000 • WillCarletonAcademy.com • Tuition-Free K-12

January 5, 2026

Dear Will Carleton Academy Families,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you well-rested and ready to face 2026 with hope and grit! The holidays do that sometimes...allow a time to take inventory of all that is well with the world. I was thrilled to be back on campus today with the halls a-buzz of activity. After the sleepy eyes opened up, the students were thrilled to see each other and it seems that they are poised and ready to learn.

It seems that a staple in my first of the new year letter is always a reminder about bad weather communication and school cancellations. This week seems quiet at a first glance, but never hurts to remind my readers! Please be reminded that WCA's official procedure is to announce closures independent of all other districts as quickly as we can; this has always been our procedure and remains our procedure. I will not communicate those closures from my cell phone or email to individual families. Those independent closures will be announced on Facebook, via email and in most situations, on WCSR (92.1 FM) and WILX (Lansing news with an app for convenience!). I do my very best to make those decisions in a timely manner to accommodate all of your schedules. Please consider adding an early morning check of Facebook or email to your routine, or the WILX app, in case a last-minute closure is necessary. I appreciate your consideration of that! In the event of a school cancellation, please know that all campus activities for that day will be cancelled. This consistent practice allows for your planning for the whole day when considering school activities.

Regarding school closures, WCA administration has listened to your inquiries about texting a school closure as well and after tons of research (Thank you, Mrs. Stewart!), the office is ready to attempt to communicate via text for school closures. IF, and only if, you want to participate in the process of texting, please complete the enclosed yellow form indicating so. This system allows WCA to send text messages per month for a reasonable fee and it does make sense to give it a try. This system will not receive texts or answer the ones that are sent as replies. This system will allow for a text to be sent to indicate a school closure without the receiver having to download an app which is very convenient for you. More to come for sure on this, but please note the form in your mailer to accept this opportunity.

It seems that fundraisers for groups or events on campus are piling up these days. For those families who have been around WCA for a bit, you know that this is not typical and that the founders' goal was to not "nickel and dime" families to death. Please know that that attitude has not changed, but that as more and more opportunities present themselves to our students, parents are working tirelessly to find ways to support the financial end of those opportunities. Please know that WCA families should only do what they can do. There is no pressure to participate in the many fundraisers, but to only participate in the ones that fit your family plan. It truly is that simple! WCA is grateful for the people who organize and manage the fundraisers and even more grateful for the people who participate in them. It is a beautiful relationship!

Speaking of fundraisers, the Parent Forum is amping up their planning for the annual Reverse Raffle, which is their main fundraiser. This year's raffle will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Johnny T's Next Door. Please watch for information that will be included in upcoming Monday Mailers from the Parent Forum with ticket information.

The 8th grade invites you to Finish Line restaurant this Wednesday, January 7th for a Spaghetti Dinner! Please see the flier in today's mailer with all of the details. An RSVP would be appreciated, but not necessary. Having a number of guests ahead of time will simply help prepare an appropriate amount of food, but please know that reservations are not required. Also note that take-out is available! Hope to see you there!

A January 2026 calendar was included in your Monday Mailer on Monday, December 15th. Please note the 2nd quarter Honor Roll Ceremony has been added on Wednesday, January 14th at Opening Ceremony. And, just a reminder that the rescheduled Winter Concert was placed on Thursday, January 22nd. We will host two concerts on that date at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate with our schedule this time!

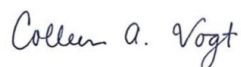
Please help me welcome Miss Kyndall Mackey and Miss Abi Poink to campus. Miss Mackey and Miss Poink will be filling positions in the art room and the gym, respectively. We are so fortunate to have found such qualified, eager new educators to fill these important positions. Mrs. McConnell continues her maternity leave this semester, while Miss Solomito will be going to Quantico, VA, for officer training in the USMC. If all goes well, she will be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in March and will be on active duty in the Marine Corps for the foreseeable future. We are so grateful for their time on campus and look forward to watching their life's journeys continue to grow.

Speaking of growing...keep your eye on the front lawn! The outdoor classroom pavilion construction is underway! So exciting to see something that I have dreamed about begin to come to fruition! Thank you to all of the folks who helped make this happen. The Parent Forum, WCA's Site Committee and anyone who listened to me along the way; you are the reason! I am so excited for our school community!

Lost and Found is still out in the gym hallway. If your schedule allows, please stop in by week's end as we have a plan to donate all items that are remaining on the tables this Friday. We will continue to collect uniform items to lend, but the non-uniform items will find a new home soon. Thank you!

Have a great week. I know this first week after break brings early bedtimes and sleepy faces, but getting back into a routine is exactly what we all need. I look forward to making 2026 the best yet!

Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen A. Vogt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colleen A. Vogt