

WIL'S JAMS

as seen on



ABOUT WILL STROET

JUNO-nominated Canadian children's musician, educator and national CBC Kids television star, Will Stroet from Will's Jams has performed more than 1,800 shows for young audiences across Canada and China. Prior to pursuing a full-time career as a musician, Will taught music in a French immersion elementary school in Vancouver for five years. His students provided continual inspiration for his songwriting in English and French. The year he performed 100 shows in addition to teaching part-time, Will knew he had to make a choice between the two and took a leave of absence in 2009 and has never looked back.

Over the past 10 years, Will has led numerous songwriting workshops and residencies with elementary school-aged children in English and French in British Columbia and is doing his first songwriting residency in Hangzhou, China this December. Will also leads music workshops for teachers and gave a keynote address about the importance of music integration in the classroom at the Calgary City Teacher's Convection. In 2015, the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Education honoured Will in their top 100 Alumni awards. In addition to being a devoted dad of two girls, Will is passionate about his work as an artist, educator and board member with Art-Starts in Schools, which supports art and creativity amongst B.C.'s young people.

SONGWRITING WORKSHOPS

As a former French immersion music teacher, Will understands how to work effectively with students and offers interactive songwriting workshops that involve critical thinking, creative writing, call and response, actions, presentation skills and performance opportunities for their peers and/or parents. Will teaches students about the basics of songwriting including lyric, chorus and verse composition, rhythm and rhyme schemes, melody, and about writing song structures (for blues, folk, pop). Students will collaboratively compose a song with Will that will be ready to perform in a final concert. Every workshop follows a learning structure and provides room for flexibility, play, and creativity, as per the interests and strengths of the class or school. The song topic can be tied to any curricular theme. The workshop duration and number of sessions is flexible and can be determined between the school and artist depending on the number of students and classes involved.

www.willsjams.com



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CASE STUDIES



“COMPASSION IS OUR PASSION”

Students in two Grade 6/7 classes at Queneesh Elementary in Courtenay, B.C. participated in an inquiry exploring sympathy, empathy and compassion—delving into what these words mean and how they are closely entwined. The inquiry zoomed in specifically on developing a deeper understanding of compassion, asking, “What does it mean to be compassionate? What does it look like?” As part of this interdisciplinary project involving writing and student photography, students spent time working with Will to collectively co-write, perform and record a song in studio that spoke to what they had discovered about compassion through their photography and shared learning experiences. The shared writing process was an incredible learning experience; it clearly reflected back what students had noticed and internalized from this inquiry into compassion. The students then used their recorded song, “Compassion is our Passion,” in a music video featuring their own photography. The students’ song was featured in BC’s ArtStarts’ Gallery exhibit “Capturing Compassion,” with the lyrics gracing the gallery’s wall, along with a display of their music video.



“TRAFALGAR HOWL”

At Trafalgar Elementary School in Vancouver, Will worked collectively with two French immersion classes in grades 3 and 6/7 and two English classes in grades 3 and 5 to compose a new bilingual school song over the course of three days. The song included a chorus incorporating words in multiple languages spoken by the diverse student population and the school’s core values (helpful, open-minded, welcoming, leadership). Students shared the song at a school assembly and will be singing it at future school assemblies for years to come! The creation of this song is part of a larger school-wide UNESCO-themed mural project currently being created by all 400-plus students and the larger school community of teachers and parents. The lyrics will be screen printed on the mural at the main entrance, which will be completed in March 2019.

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