



# **Family Guidebook to Events and Organizations at Woodside School**

2024/2025 School Year

# Woodside School Events and Traditions

## New & Buddy Family Ice Cream Social

Typically held on the *Sunday before the first day of school* on the Kindergarten blacktop. This fun social event, for our NEW families and their buddy families, is designed to welcome all NEW families to Woodside School.

## Back To School BBQ

Typically held on the *last Friday of August or first Friday in September*, this is a much-loved event hosted by the PTA to welcome all families to the start of the school year. All family members are invited to join the fun and bring a picnic blanket to enjoy dinner on the grass. Purchase tickets before the event to reserve a delicious BBQ dinner cooked on-site!

## Back To School Night

Typically held on the *last Thursday in August or first Thursday in September*. Lower and upper school classroom visitations are staggered to accommodate all parent schedules. All parents/ guardians are encouraged to attend. *This is an adult-only event.*

## Wednesday Line-Up

Typically held the *first Wednesday of every month* starting at 8:25am, on the Kindergarten blacktop. During lineups members from WES administration, PTA and Woodside School Foundation will provide updates. In addition, awards are given to students who received the most Wildcat Ways the month before. For the '24-'25 school year the Wednesday lineup dates are: September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 11.

## Lower School Parent Socials

Typically held in *September or October*, each lower school grade (TK through 4th) will have a parent social hosted by a board member from the PTA and Woodside School Foundation (time and location to be determined by the hosts). The socials are meant to be a fun way to get to know the fellow parents in your child's grade in a more intimate setting.

## Garden Fest

Typically held in *October*, Garden Fest is an after-school fall fundraising event where student and parent volunteers sell goodies such as hand-made delicious treats, home-grown produce and beautiful crafts, with proceeds going to support our wonderful school garden.

## Halloween Events

Halloween is a big deal at WES! We have several events happening on *Halloween day*: the annual pumpkin carving contest, a Halloween Parade after lunch, followed by a sing-a-long at the amphitheater. Family members are welcome on campus to watch the parade and sing along with the whole school.

## Book Fairs

We host a holiday Book Fair before the winter break (great for holiday gifts) and often a second book fair in the spring. These events are fundraisers for our school library and a great way to encourage reading! There is always a wide variety of books for all ages, including some best sellers for adults.

## All School Talent Show

The WES Talent Show usually takes place in the *early spring* and all students are encouraged to participate. It's a fun night for the whole family.

### An Evening in The Garden

Taking place on an *evening in April*, this is a wonderful event and fundraiser for the PTA Student Program Scholarship Fund, with delicious goodies, spring garden plants and more for sale. Artwork from our students is displayed throughout the garden.

### May Day

May Day is our beloved tradition scheduled on the *first Saturday of May*. Activities include: Pancake breakfast, May Day run, Parade, PTA Amphitheater Program, Maypole Dance, Citizen of the Year Award presentation, lunch and carnival games. This is a not-to-be-missed event for the whole family!

### Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

Taking place during the *first week of May*, this week provides several opportunities to show your appreciation for our teachers and staff — daily coffee at the Hub, luncheon on Tuesday, flowers and homemade cards of appreciation from students and families on Wednesday, and a breakfast on Friday.

### Open House

Our Open House usually takes place the *Thursday evening before the Grand Auction*. The WES band plays during an informal outdoor welcome session and then the TK-8th Grade classrooms will be open for students and parents to visit their current classroom and visit with specialists.

### WSF Grand Auction

An annual tradition, the Woodside School Foundation has hosted a Grand Auction to raise funds for the Woodside School since 1984. Usually taking place in *late May*, this highly anticipated gala always has a fun theme, and all attendees are encouraged to wear theme-based outfits to the event. The event includes an online auction prior to the event and live auction during the event. ***This is an adult-only event.***

### Bingo & Raffle Night

This is a fun evening for the entire family while raising funds for our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Purchase bingo cards and try to win prizes, with the best prizes designated for the raffle! Donations for prizes are requested.

### Operetta

One of the most enjoyable Woodside traditions is the annual Operetta. *Each spring*, the Operetta stars the entire 8th Grade and each year's new musical production is a lovely farewell from the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade to the entire school. The proceeds help pay for the various 8<sup>th</sup> Grade activities as well as provide a special class gift for the school. Operetta also brings the community of Woodside together to celebrate the hard work, tradition, and many talents of our students.

### Field Day

Field Day is usually held the *Monday of the last week of school* for all students to enjoy outdoor games and activities. Students wear athletic shoes and their grade-special color apparel. Pizza lunch is provided.

### Music Concerts

Music is a big part of Woodside School, providing students of all grades with an opportunity to perform at various events *throughout the year*. Whether it's the Lower school student performances or the Upper school students, who are learning to play new instruments, these events are memory making for all students and their families.



# Woodside After School Programs

## After-School Enrichment Classes (PTA)

The PTA is proud to organize after school enrichment (ASE) classes for all our students in grades TK-5 during the fall, winter and spring trimesters. These classes are different from Workshop, as they are individual classes, with varying schedules, that parents register for.

Class options for fall 2024 include: Stem with Legos, Spanish, Basketball, Chess, Flag Football, Mixed Media Art, Global Cooking and Taekwondo!

## WESD After-School Sports

In addition to K-8 physical education classes during the school day, Woodside School, administered by the school's Athletic Directors, offers after-school sports programs of flag football and girls volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and tennis, boys volleyball and track and field in the spring.

In keeping with the Woodside School mission, the District believes that the after-school sports program should offer a nurturing environment consistent with Woodside's cohesive, small-town character. In collaboration with parents and coaches, the program works to instill respect and compassion for others in all students who participate. The program's goals are to develop self-esteem and enable students to achieve their highest potential.

## Workshop

Workshop is our after-school program, provided through an outside organization called Workshop Education, that promotes study skills, innovation and homework for all elementary students. Workshop focuses on executive functioning skills, life and study skills, hands-on learning activities, and enjoying the great outdoors!

The program provides children with a dynamic (and super fun!) after-school experience. Workshop is offered every day that school is open, including all school-wide early dismissal days. Workshop runs from school dismissal until 6 p.m.

# Woodside School PTA

The PTA raises money to support our school and teachers and hosts many community events throughout the school year.

Joining the PTA is easy and **does not require you to volunteer**. To join, you can drop off cash or check (\$50/family) payable to “Woodside PTA” at the school office or pay via Zelle by directing payment to: [wespta@woodsideschool.us](mailto:wespta@woodsideschool.us). *Please be sure to Include your name and child’s name in the notes.*

More information about what else the PTA does can be found at [www.woodsideschool.us/PTA](http://www.woodsideschool.us/PTA)

Would you like to chat with someone about the PTA? Contact our president Liz Kerr: [ekerr910@gmail.com](mailto:ekerr910@gmail.com)

## Funding

- PTA Annual Membership Fee
- PTA Donations
- Original Art
- Holiday Family Photo Event
- School Photos
- Emily Joubert Shopping Event
- Honey Bear Tree Event
- Spirit Wear
- Evening in the Garden Event

## Programs

- Weekly Sponsored Teacher Coffees
- Teacher Grants
- Art Grant
- PTA Student Program Scholarship Fund
- Garden Program
- Book Fair
- Read-a-Thon
- Online School Directory ~ Konstella
- After School Enrichment Scholarships
- Woodside Inclusion and Diversity Counsel
- Additional student activities (varies by year)

## Events

- New Family Ice Cream Social
- Back-to-school Parent Coffee
- Staff Monthly Lunches
- Parent Education
- Back to School BBQ
- Pumpkin Carving Contest
- Upper School BBQs
- Garden Fest

# Ways For Families to Support WES

## Class Funds

**TK through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** At the start of the school year, the teaching team for TK through 4<sup>th</sup> Grades determine the budget needed to cover their costs for the year for items such as musical instruments, gnome hats (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), chickens (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), etc.

**Upper School:** At the start of the school year, the room parents for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grades determine the budget needed to cover their costs for items such as Upper School BBQs, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation lunch and flowers, etc. Room parents also begin to strategize about fundraising towards the, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class gift and Operetta.

**Ask of Families:** The amount needed for each grade is divided by the number of students in that grade and that is the class fund ask of families for the year. Money is collected in September via Zelle or check to the PTA, who manages these funds. Any amount left over at the end of the school year is carried over with that grade as a positive balance for the next school year's class fund.

## Field Trips

Field trip costs are managed by WES administration. Beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, families will receive a separate request from WES to cover the cost of each field trip. Each grade has one overnight field trip. Typically, the trips are as follows: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Gold Country; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Outdoor Ed; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Marin Headlands; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Yosemite; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Washington D.C.

*For field trip scholarship support, contact Liza Lazzari in the front office.*

## Upper School Fundraisers

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades host fundraisers throughout the year to help these grades raise money to pay for Operetta and 8<sup>th</sup> Graduation expenses. Fundraisers include bingo night, car wash, swap meet, etc.

## PTA

**Membership Dues:** PTA suggested membership fee is currently \$50 for WES families / \$15 for WES teachers & staff. In addition to managing and providing access to the ONLINE Woodside School Directory, membership dues are a significant portion of our PTA's annual fundraising effort. *Please note: Joining the PTA does not require you to volunteer or attend meetings.*

## Woodside School Foundation

**Annual Fund:** Every fall the Woodside School Foundation (WSF) holds an Annual Fund Drive to raise money to supplement the school's operating budget. The amount that WES receives from public funds to operate is not sufficient to provide the excellent education found at WES so each year the school asks for WSF to donate the "gap" between the amount the school needs to run and the amount the school receives from public funds. WSF then asks the families through the Annual Fund to "Bridge the Gap" for each student that they have enrolled at WES. In 2023, the "Bridge the Gap" was \$5,500 per student.

**Grand Auction:** Every May, WSF holds a grand auction to further raise money to supplement the school's operating budget. WSF asks families to help support the school by donating items for the online and live auctions and attending the live auction party. The next Grand Auction will be held on *May 17, 2025*.

# May Day

The May Day Festival has been a beloved Woodside tradition for over 100 years. Scheduled annually on the first Saturday in May, this fun-filled day includes a pancake breakfast hosted at Village Church, a Fun Run sponsored by the Woodside Recreation Committee, a parade filled with Woodside Elementary students, horses, and community members, a traditional May Pole Dance by Woodside Elementary's 3rd graders, and a Carnival and BBQ hosted by the PTA.

The entire community and surrounding neighbors are invited to join in on this delightful and longstanding Woodside tradition. Please see our website (<https://woodside-elementary-pta.square.site/>) for up-to-date information and volunteer opportunities. Questions? Please email [WoodsideMayDay@yahoo.com](mailto:WoodsideMayDay@yahoo.com)



## Schedule of Events

The Sheriff's Department will close Woodside Road (Highway 84) between Cañada Rd. and Kings Mountain Rd. at 8:30 a.m. Early arrival is encouraged.

7:30 a.m.: [Fun Run sign-ups](#) sponsored by the Woodside Recreation Committee

8:00 a.m.: Pancake Breakfast at the Woodside Village Church

8:30 a.m.: Parade check-in outside the school office/Fun Run beings

*8:30 a.m.: Woodside Road, Hwy 84, closes from Cañada to Kings Mountain Road.*

10:00 a.m.: Parade down Woodside Road from the school to Canada Road

11:00 a.m.: PTA Amphitheater Program / Maypole Dance / Citizen of the Year Award presentation

11:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m.: Carnival Games at Woodside Elementary School

12:00 p.m.: BBQ hosted by Bucks Restaurant and the 7th-grade

# Woodside School Operetta

One of the most enjoyable Woodside traditions is the annual Operetta, a musical starring the ENTIRE 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class. This long-standing tradition is often viewed by graduates as one of the most rewarding experiences of their Woodside School years. The journey of production helps solidify long-standing relationships while seriously bonding the soon-to-be graduates. And often, students discover an untapped love of performance and theater!

## Tradition

The tradition was established in 1957 by former teacher and superintendent George Sellman (for whom the auditorium is now named), and WES has enjoyed a production every year since (except for 2020). Every eighth grader appears on stage, whether it be in the larger company-singing and dancing in support of the main characters- or as a featured performer.

## Details

The show is announced by producers in January, with auditions in early February. Rehearsals take place during the entire third trimester, beginning early March. Memorial Day Weekend is MANDATORY Tech Weekend for all actors, and any parent/guardian volunteer with show night responsibilities.

The show runs for four nights Wed-Sat the first week of June, with a mix of showtimes. If the cast is large, many roles will be performed by different actors on alternate nights.

## Production

The Operetta is produced by unpaid parent/guardian volunteers (with two exceptions as described below). For many volunteer roles, this is a serious time commitment concentrated in the final trimester, but it is also a total joy to watch the performances evolve and the show coalesce.

Producers (2-3) select the show and coordinate everything (this job begins the first trimester). Producers DO NOT cast the show, so there is no opportunity for favoritism. If a parent or guardian is Directing, then someone without current 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be brought in during auditions.

Paid professionals design and program the lights and audio (with parent/guardian volunteers running the lights and sound on show nights). In 2024, unpaid parent/guardian volunteers served as Producers and a Musical Director and Choreographer were hired.

Producers work closely with the Upper School Principal and Room Parents to ensure communication and scheduling is executed properly.

## Expenses and Fundraising

The production has four main sources of funding:

- **Class Fund:** Excess monies from previous years class fund and fundraising events like car washes, rummage sales, etc.
- **Ticket and Concession Sales:** Ticket prices are set by the script licensing company, but creative VIP packages can be created to generate additional funds
- **Stargrams Sales:** Nostalgic collages of photos and notes from families to their actors
- **Program Ads:** Advertisements purchased by local businesses
- *Occasionally additional underwriting is necessary*



# Woodside School Board

Woodside School Board Trustees are elected by the voters living in the District and serve four year terms. Elections are held in November every other year. Two trustees are elected during one cycle, and three the next cycle.

The Board has the following responsibilities:

- Set the strategic direction of the school
- Make policy to provide overall guidelines
- Employ personnel
- Adopt budget and approve expenditures
- Adopt curriculum
- Evaluate the education process

## Board Meeting Dates

Regular public meetings are held in person in Wildcats and on Zoom at 3:30 pm on the following dates for the '24-'25 school year:

- Tuesday, August 27, 2024
- Tuesday, September 17, 2024
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024
- Tuesday, November 12, 2024
- Tuesday, December 10, 2024
- Tuesday, January 14, 2025
- Tuesday, February 11, 2025
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025
- Tuesday, April 15, 2025
- Tuesday, May 13, 2025
- Tuesday, June 3, 2025

## Current Board Members

- Jenny Hayden - President  
*(Term expires Dec. 2026)*
- Neil Sequeira - Vice President  
*(Term expires Dec. 2024)*
- Dan Simon - Trustee  
*(Term expires Dec. 2024)*
- Brett Westervelt - Clerk  
*(Term expires Dec. 2026)*
- Amanda Peiffer - Trustee  
*(Term expires Dec. 2026)*

# Woodside Inclusion & Diversity Council

If you are passionate about making WES a strong and inclusive community, please consider joining WIDC! Meetings are held throughout the year to identify and address barriers to inclusion and create opportunities to honor diversity so that every student and family may feel at home at WES! Please reach out to Katie Johnson ([ekatiebjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:ekatiebjohnson@gmail.com)) for more details and look for info on WIDC meetings and events in the Wildcats Weekly.

## Opportunities to Connect

- WIDC meetings are held quarterly on the first in-school Monday of September, November, January, and March. Look for the zoom link in Wildcats Weekly
- Weekly Walks on Wednesdays, meet at the Hub after drop-off
- WES Family Park Playdate on the last Sunday of the month at 3 PM in Mitchell Park
- WIDC Bulletin Board & Suggestion Box to be installed outside of the front office in Fall

## Mission Statement:

Woodside School is committed to being a diverse and inclusive community and believes the inclusion of people of diverse race, ethnicity, national origin, culture, religion, gender, sexual orientation, learning style, physical ability, family structure and socioeconomic background enriches our academic programs and the experience of students, educators, staff and families. While preparing and educating our young people for roles as citizens and leaders in a highly diverse world, we will cultivate understanding and strengthen relationships, appreciating the benefits and rising to the challenge of integrating diversity in all aspects of our school community.

## Outreach Subcommittee Work:

- School Event Planning
- Buddy Family Program
- Transportation
- Communication & Strategic Development

# Woodside School Foundation

The Woodside School Foundation is a non-profit volunteer organization that raises funds to fill the gap between public funding sources and what it truly costs to run Woodside School. The Foundation funds almost 15% of the school's annual budget each year. Most donations come from current school families, but we also receive generous donations from community members, alumni, grandparents, and local businesses.

WSF raises \$2.25 million annually through two fundraisers — the **Annual Fund** and the **Grand Auction**.

- The Annual Fund will take place from October 1st, 2024 to October 18th, 2024
- The Grand Auction will take place on May 17th, 2025- Save the Date!

Contributions to the Woodside School Foundation help:

- Recruit and retain excellent teachers
- Maintain low student-to-teacher ratios
- Provide differentiated learning and fully staffed reading, speech and occupational therapy specialists
- Offer school-wide STEM, PE, Design Lab, art, music, and choir. 15 electives for Upper School students
- Enable WES to support long held school traditions such as 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Operetta

## 2024-2025 Executive Board

### **President**

Scottie Durrett

### **Vice President**

Beth Nash

### **Treasurer**

Lauren Sagan

### **Annual Fund Chairs**

Christina Hengehold

Melody Westervelt

### **Grand Auction Chair**

Mia Hall

### **Secretary**

Steve Humphrey



# Woodside Elementary School

## 2024-2025 Academic Year Calendar

Revised & Board Approved 5.14.2024

School Holidays  
Teacher Days  
Minimum Days  
End of Trimester

**September 24**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

20 Days

**October 24**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

22 Days

**November 24**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

14 Days

**December 24**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

15 Days

**January 25**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

19 Days

**February 25**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

14 Days

**March 25**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

20 Days

**April 25**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

17 Days

**May 25**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

21 Days

**June 25**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

10 Days

180 days  
3 Teacher PD days  
3 Teacher Work Days

### School Events & Holidays

- School Office Open - Aug 1
- Teacher PD Day - Aug 19
- Teacher Work Day - Aug. 20
- First Day of School/Min Day - Aug 21
- Back To School Night — Aug. 29
- Minimum Day — Aug. 30
- Labor Day Holiday - Sept 2
- Teacher PD Day - Oct 3
- Conferences/Min. Days - Oct 15,16, 24, 25
- Veteran's Day - Nov 11
- End of T1 - Nov 15
- Teacher Work Day - Nov. 22
- Thanksgiving Holiday - Nov 25-29
- Winter Break - Dec 23-Jan 3
- MLK Day - Jan 20
- Presidents' Week - Feb 17-21
- Teacher PD Day - Feb 24
- Teacher Work Day - March 14
- Conference/Min Days - March 20 & 21
- End of T2 - March 12
- Spring Break - April 7-11
- Open House — May 15
- Memorial Day - May 26
- Last Day of School/Min Day - June 13
- Juneteenth Day - June 19