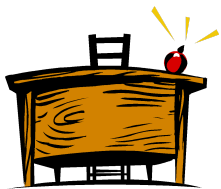


Kindergarten Newsletter

AUGUST 2024

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

We have a fun-filled year ahead of us here at Woodside! This newsletter is the first of many to come. We are sure that many of you have questions about our unique kindergarten program. Hopefully this newsletter will answer a few of your inquiries. You are all invited to attend Back to School Night the evening of Thursday, August 29th (parents only). You will receive our Kindergarten Handbook, which contains information about everything we do. Please be sure to bring your questions to the presentation!



WHAT TO EXPECT

The first day of Kindergarten is on Wednesday, August 21st. It will be a school wide minimum day. The first day of school begins at **8:20 am** and students will be dismissed at

12:30 pm. (Our school yard opens at 8:00 am so students may play until the 8:20 am bell rings.) Due to the minimum day schedule, there will NOT be lunch on the first day of school. A detailed schedule is below.



Please note: Starting the second day of school August 22nd, school begins at **8:20 am** and students will be dismissed at **1:00 pm.**

To drop-off your child, plan on parking near the tennis courts and walking your child through the middle gate (Located behind the office building. See map attached.) and to their classroom. This is where you will take a quick photo with your child (will be put in their cubby) and then say a short & sweet goodbye.

For pick-up, if you are driving, please follow the same procedure: Enter the school at the tennis courts and drive along the fence line to the red curb. Please stay in your car and a teacher/staff member will load your child in the car. If you are walking, please wait at the middle gate.

Beginning Monday, October 7th kindergarten students will be dismissed at 2:30. Details about any changes in drop-off or pick-up will be communicated via email as needed.

MEET N' GREET COMING SOON!

You will have a chance to sign up for a "Meet n' Greet" time on Friday, August 9th. On this day we invite students to come to school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and play with other students that are enrolled. This will be just for the students for about an hour or so. You will be emailed a sign up and more information soon for this!

WHO'S MY CHILD'S TEACHER?

Class placements will be **emailed** to all families on **Tuesday, August 20th at 3:00 pm**. There you will find out your child's teacher and which classroom they will be in.



WHO'S WHO?

We would like to take this time to introduce you to the kindergarten team. We are Nessa Hessami and Tracy Reilly:

Nessa Hessami is in her 17th year of teaching and her 14th year here at Woodside School. Nessa grew up in Foster City and currently lives in her hometown with her husband, Michael and six year old son, Luca. She loves exercise, cooking, and spending time with family.

Tracy Reilly is in her 23rd year of teaching and her 18th year here at Woodside School. Tracy and her fiancé, Matt, live in Half Moon Bay with their five year old son, Coleman. She loves biking the coastal trail with her family, hiking, and traveling.

The kindergarten Team is so excited for a great year with your child!!

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Everyday your child should come to school with:

- A regular-sized backpack (No mini-backpacks or rolling backpacks, thanks!)
- Small travel size hand sanitizer with their name on it. This will be kept in their cubby.
- Water bottle. Ice is encouraged to keep cool on hot days.
- Sunscreen (applied at home)/hats encouraged on hot days.
- A healthy morning snack and lunch. We have recess and lunchtime everyday, including the first six weeks of school of 1:00 dismissal. For those students who ordered hot lunches, they begin the first week of school. If you are interested in signing up for hot lunches, please see below for details. Please note: If your child is signed up for a "hot lunch," please send them with a morning snack for recess. If you need to drop off your child's lunch, please do so in the main office. Please do not bring a student's late snack or lunch to the classroom door since it can disrupt the class.

- Wasp Notice: In the warmer months at Woodside we tend to have wasps that are drawn to lunch meat which can make for a frustrating lunch experience. Please pack food and snacks accordingly.
- Children should also be wearing **comfortable closed-toe shoes for running** around the playground and on our P.E. days. Flip flops and Crocs are not shoes that allow a student to run, climb and play safely at school. On rainy days, if your child wears rain boots, please pack them a pair of sneakers as well.
- Pack a change of clothes for your student in a zip-lock bag in case of spills or accidents. This will be kept in the bottom of their backpack all year long and used as needed.
- Masks are optional and encouraged if your child has a lingering cough. If your child will be wearing a mask, please send your child with extra masks in their backpack as they get damp throughout the day.

COMMUNICATION

- **Monthly Newsletters:** Every Wednesday your child will take their "Wednesday Folder" home from class. Inside each folder will be work completed in class and activities to do at home. Each month the teachers will also send out a kindergarten newsletter. We try our best to keep you informed of all of the many activities happening that concern your child. This includes the curriculum, field trips, parties, and upcoming events. Be sure your child returns their homework folder every Thursday to receive a sticker on their folder for a job well done.
- **Seesaw App:** Seesaw is an app we use to share pictures and videos of our day. Only the parents in our class can see these photos. We encourage you to use these photos & videos as talking points with your child about their day, the friendships they're developing, and what they are learning! Soon we will send you a QR code for you to download the app.
- **Wildcats Weekly:** Hopefully you have been receiving "Wildcats Weekly" from the Woodside School District. (If not, please contact the main office.) This electronic newsletter contains all the important dates, information, and events happening at our school.
- **Head Room Parent Emails:** Once our room parents have been assigned you will be receiving important emails from our head room parent regarding kindergarten class parties, volunteer opportunities, and field trips.



KINDERGARTEN WISH LIST:

BELOW ARE ITEMS WE GO THROUGH QUICKLY THROUGH THE SCHOOL YEAR. THEY ARE OPTIONAL TO BRING. ALL ITEMS DONATED WILL BE FOR COMMUNITY USE IN THE CLASSROOM. NO LABELING IS NEEDED.

- 1 set of Crayola & Ultra Clean "Washable Markers" Broad Point Classic Colors 12 Markers
- 1 Sanford Expo Dry Erase Marker Fine Point (Black)
- Glue Sticks (White or clear preferred)
- Kleenex
- Foaming soap refill (large bottles)

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYDATES/ACTIVITIES



Your child's safety is our number one priority. It is your responsibility to email us whom your child will be going home with after school, if it is someone other than a parent or regular babysitter/nanny. Email is the best way to communicate with us during the school day. Our email addresses are at the end of this newsletter. Please email pick-up details BEFORE 1:00 pm.

**Attached is the "After school pick-up" form. We keep this form in the classroom to be sure we know who is allowed to pick your child up from school. Bring this form with you on the first day of school. Thank you for your help.*



STUDENT ASSESSMENT SIGN-UPS

We want to get to know your child and their learning needs/goals. Beginning Monday, September 9th to Friday, October 4th, we will be scheduling times in the afternoon for students to meet with their teacher for one-to-one assessments. Please look for an email from us during the first week of school to schedule an assessment time. We will send you the link to sign up through *MyConference*. Assessment appointments are just for the student and teacher and will be approximately thirty to forty minutes. Results will be shared at our first parent-teacher conference in October.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Beginning Monday, October 7th, we will dismiss students at 2:30 pm. The drop-off and pick-up routines will be the same as last year unless communicated from our principal, Patrick Hurley and the Woodside School District. Please always follow their guidelines. This pick-up will become a natural routine soon enough!



HOT LUNCH ORDERS

Our lunch program is called "*The LunchMaster*." With the start of the new school year and in compliance with the free Universal Meals Program, every child who wants to receive a meal at breakfast and lunch during the school year MUST register on *The LunchMaster*. All existing 2022-23 participants MUST update their account with the correct GRADE for the 2023-24 school year. This process must be done every new school year in order to

ensure efficiency with our meal distribution here at school. In addition, it's imperative to order on a timely basis to ensure your students are on the daily meal list. All breakfast and lunches are supplied to students at no cost. Have questions regarding the lunch program? Please email Liza Lazzari at llazzari@woodsideschool.us. If you'd like to sign up for breakfast or lunch for your child, go to our school website (In the top right corner, click "QuickLinks," then "[Lunch Ordering](#)"). Please order before the start of the school year. Be sure to place your orders for your student at least two weeks in advance. Remember to also pack a snack for your child for morning recess (**snacks are not included in hot lunch purchase**). Thank you!



NEED AFTER SCHOOL CARE?

Workshop Education Enrichment is our after school program for TK-5th grades from dismissal time up until 6:00 pm. *Workshop Education Enrichment* is back and super excited to return to Woodside Elementary for the 2023-24 school year. "Award-winning Study Skills and Innovation Workshop classes will continue as the program's pillars. Emerging from the pandemic, Workshop Education will focus now more than ever on executive functioning skills, life skills, hands-on learning activities, and enjoying the great outdoors!" To register your child, please go to our school website, in the top right corner, click "Quick Links" then "[After School Workshop Education](#)."



EXTRA CLOTHES

Bathroom accidents or lunch spills can happen at school when there is so much activity throughout our kindergarten day. **Please send your child to school with extra clothes (underwear, shorts/pants, socks) in their backpack, just in case.** Thank you!

VOLUNTEERING IN THE CLASSROOM



We value your partnership in your child's education. Starting in October, parents will be able to start volunteering in the classroom. Your child's teacher will send you a SignUp Genius link in September where you will be able to sign up to help with choice time, garden, art or cooking projects.

WHAT TO EXPECT THE FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN

Wednesday, August 21st

8:00-8:20 Plan on arriving early. Please park your car and walk your child through the middle gate. (The gate behind the office building, not the gate next to the tennis courts. Please see the map attached.) Parents will walk their child to their classroom door and the teacher will take a photo of your child with their parents outside. After the photo, please help your child put their backpack in their cubby and get their name tag on. Then say a quick goodbye.



8:20 Bell rings and school begins in classrooms. Please note moving forward: Per district protocol, students who arrive after 8:25 am will be marked tardy.

9:30 Morning snack and recess. Please send your child a healthy, hearty snack and drink. NO LUNCH on the first day of school.

12:30 Teachers will walk the class over to the pick-up location (parking lot closest to tennis courts. See map for location). Please stay in your car and teachers/staff members will load your child into your car.

***Please note, starting **Thursday, August 22nd, school will be dismissed at 1:00pm.** (Same drop-off and pick-up procedure.)

SET-UP FOR SUCCESS!

To ensure a smooth transition from summer to school life, have a chat with your child about some of our school expectations and rules they will be learning and need to follow:

- Be kind
- Listen to the teacher
- Follow the "Group Plan"
- Share & Take Turns
- Have fun!

We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

Ms. Hessami and Ms. Reilly



EMAIL AND PHONE CONTACT INFO:

Tracy Reilly, Room 3 (KA): treilly@woodsideschool.us

Phone: (650) 851-1571 ext. 1003

Nessa Hessami, Room 4 (KB): nhessami@woodsideschool.us

Phone: (650) 851-1571 ext. 1004

IMPORTANT DATES:

- PTA sponsored New & Buddy Family Ice Cream Social - Sunday, August 18th from 4:00-5:00 pm (on the kindergarten blacktop outside rooms 3, 4, and 5)
- Tuesday, August 20th - Class placements will be emailed to you at 3:00 pm
- First day of School - Wednesday, August 21st - School starts at 8:20 and all students dismissed at 12:30pm -No lunch needed but pack a hearty snack (Parking will be challenging, allow extra time). Parent coffee provided by the PTA from 8:30-9:30 am (location TBD).
- August 22nd - October 4th - Students released at 1:00pm- Snack and lunch needed everyday
- August 23rd - School Picture Day
- Thursday, August 29th - Back to School Night (Parents only). Time & Details TBD
- August 30th - Minimum day. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm.
- No School - Monday, September 2nd - Labor Day
- PTA sponsored Back to School BBQ - September 6th at 5:00pm
- No School October 3rd - Teacher Professional Development Day
- Beginning Monday, October 7th - Students dismissed at 2:30 pm everyday
- Attached is our school calendar for the year. **Please note all holidays and minimum days in your calendars.** On minimum days, students will always be dismissed at 12:30 pm. Additional note: Because the whole school dismisses on minimum days, this causes huge traffic jams. Plan on coming early or walking if possible to avoid traffic/parking delays.



Please print and fill out the After School Pick Up Permission Slip attachment included in this email. Please bring the completed form to the first day of school. Thank you!!