



August 2024

Dear Transitional Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Transitional Kindergarten at Woodside School. We are thrilled to begin a new year with your children on Wednesday, August 21st. We invite you, and your children, to come by to visit the TK classroom and meet us, on **Tuesday, August 20th between 1:00 pm-2:30 pm.** This is an informal open house for exploring the classroom, where students can become more comfortable about coming to school and to meet some other Tk students. Please check in with the office before walking over to Room 2 and Room 5. We look forward to welcoming you to TK!

We are excited to introduce you to the Transitional Kindergarten team! **Sonja Virgallito** is in her 25th year teaching and 22nd year at Woodside School. She was born and raised here in the special community of Woodside. She now lives in Half Moon Bay with her husband Greg, and sons Lucca (18) and Axel (12). Sonja and her children all attended Woodside School. Sonja loves to be outdoors, having adventures with her family, traveling, swimming, hiking, reading, practicing yoga and always learning new things.

This year, **Stacey McNamara** will be teaching Transitional Kindergarten as well and is so excited to make the move to TK! She has taught Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten here at Woodside since 2004. Before working at Woodside Elementary, she was a kindergarten teacher in the Ross Valley School District in Marin County for four years. Stacey lives in San Carlos with her husband Alex, their two children and all of their lively pets. She loves photography, working in the garden and traveling.

The first day of school on August 20th, is a minimum day that ends at 12:15pm. Please plan on getting to school early, as parking will be limited on minimum days. Starting on Thursday, August 22, students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm for the first trimester. We will then lengthen our day beginning December 2, with a 2:30 pm dismissal.

The first few weeks of Transitional Kindergarten are especially tiring, adjusting to all the newness of school. We recommend not over-scheduling your child with too many extracurricular activities during the first few weeks of school. Please make sure that they get plenty of sleep (10-12 hours) and wake up in time to eat a healthy breakfast and get to school on time every day.

As we begin this year, parents and visitors on campus are not allowed past the gates during school hours. Plan on entering the school campus in the west parking lot near the town tennis courts. You may choose to park, or drop-off your child at the curb. Simply follow the cones/signs to the designated drop-off area. Your child will be escorted to the TK classroom in room 2 or room 5 near the preschool by our TK aide, Mrs. Nessi. Campus opens at 8:10 am, so your child may need to wait outside the classroom until the bell rings at 8:20 am. Please look for more information about drop-off and pick-up procedures from the School District. On Thursday August 22, until Friday, November 22nd, all TK students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm. During the second and third trimester, a 2:30 pm full-day will be an option. We will meet at the same gate by the tennis courts for pick-up. The school offers two after school daycare options. Please see our school website for more information and to sign-up. Day care providers will pick TK students up in the classroom when our day ends. Protocol for drop-off and pick-up may be changed by the school administration. Please make sure to read any emails that come from Woodside School and check the school website for any updates.

TK students will be eating a snack and lunch at school on all school days, including minimum and early dismissal days. If you are interested in signing up for catered lunches or milk, please sign up through the school website. If you'd like to order lunches 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 each week. Please remember to also pack a water bottle and a snack every day for morning recess (morning snacks are not included in hot lunch purchase). Note that school lunches are not available on minimum days.

What to Expect the First Days of TK

8:10-8:20am: Drop-off will be at the gate between the tennis courts and the first grade classrooms. One of our TK aides, Mrs. Nessi will greet students at the gate and make sure that they walk to their classroom safely. Please do not worry if you arrive late. The parking lot will fill up quickly and we understand that it takes longer to get to campus with young children. If children arrive early. Students will need to sit on the bench outside the classrooms until the bell rings. At 8:20, we will open the door and begin welcoming students inside. Each student will have a cubby for their belongings.

8:20-8:45am: After putting belongings away, all students will wash their hands before engaging in arrival activities such as games, puzzles, building toys and books.

8:45-9:30am: Storytime, Circle Time, Group Games, Music and Movement, Playtime

9:30am: Morning snack and recess. We eat in the classroom and play outside for recess. Please provide a healthy, hearty snack and water.

10:15-12:00pm: Storytime, Center Activities, Exploration, Art

12:00pm: Lunch Please provide a healthy lunch in a reusable lunchbox. Students will eat inside with adult supervision. Practicing how to open containers, and clean up is highly recommended.

12:15pm: Pick-up will be by the gate near the tennis courts. We will wait with the students there and make sure that they are dismissed with their caretakers.

Please note that starting on Thursday August 22nd, TK will be dismissed at 1:00pm. They will enjoy a second recess after eating lunch.

Getting Ready for TK at Home

The TK program emphasizes growing independence, confidence and learning in a community. We highly recommend having your child practice some of these routines at home. Here are some suggested activities: cleaning up toys, getting dressed, using the bathroom, washing hands for 20 seconds, packing up a lunchbox and backpack, opening food containers, filling a water bottle and putting on shoes. Most children enjoy these self-care routines because they feel grown-up and helpful if they can do them without a grown-up's guidance.

What To Bring To School

Each day, your child should come to school with:

- A regular-sized backpack (no rolling backpacks)
- Refillable water bottle.
- Sunscreens/hats encouraged on hot days for outside time
- 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 school lunches, they begin the first week of school. If you are interested in signing up for hot lunches, please order through the school website. Please note: If your child is signed up for a school lunch, please send them with a morning snack. Lunches are delivered to the classroom.

- Children should also be wearing comfortable closed-toe shoes for running around the playground and on our P.E. days. Flip flops are not allowed at school.

Extra Clothes

Please send your child to school with a labeled ziplock bag of extra clothes (underwear, shorts/pants, shirt/sweatshirt and socks). TK can be a messy place. Please dress your child in clothing that is comfortable and can easily be washed. Young children often need to change clothes. Bathroom accidents easily happen at school when there is so much activity and sometimes a line for the restroom. Food spills down shirts. Sometimes we get covered with paint, mud, clay or water at school. Please label all of your child's belongings.

Donating TK Supplies

We provide, and we will share, the supplies in the classroom. TK students do not need to bring their own. If you would like to help donate to TK, here are the supplies we need to start the new year.

- Boxes of soft tissues (like Kleenex)
- Seventh Generation or similar non-toxic disinfecting wipes
- Seventh Generation or similar non-toxic all purpose cleaner spray bottles
- Foaming non-toxic hand soap and soap refills
- Baby wipes
- Fine point black EXPO markers

Back to School Night

During the Back to School Night on August 29th, we will present a lot of information about the TK curriculum, events, expectations, celebrations and more about our amazing school. We will also give you a TK Handbook that has everything that you need to know this year. This is a parent-only event, so please plan accordingly. Please check the school website for more details.

Calendar

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. Since these days are whole-school dismissal, plan on coming early or walking if possible to avoid traffic/parking delays.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- August 20: Meet the TK teachers: between 1:00-2:30 pm
- August 21: First day of school minimum dismissal at 12:15 pm

- August 22nd – November 22nd: TK Students released at 1:00 pm. (first trimester).
- December 2 (after Thanksgiving break) - -June 13th 2:30 pm dismissal will be offered
- August 25th: PTA sponsored Back to School BBQ at 5:00 pm
- August 29th: Back to School Night. Time & Details TBD
- August 30th Students dismissed at 12:15 pm
- September 2nd: No School – Monday for Labor Day

We look forward to meeting you and getting to know your family this school year. You will learn much more about us, and the TK program, at Back to School Night on the evening of August 29th. This will be a parents-only event and we will have a 12:15 pm dismissal on that day.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Sonja Virgallito
svirgallito@woodsideschool.us

Stacey McNamara
smcnamara@woodsideschool.us