



# Woodland Hills Private School

*Where children gain love and knowledge*

## Back to School Night

\*School closes at 5:00 pm\*

### Oxnard Campus

Thurs, Aug 31st

6:00-8:30 pm

### Collins Campus

Wed, Sept 6th

6:30-8:00 pm



*This is an evening for parents only.*

Please join us! This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers and other classroom parents. Plus, you'll learn about our 2017-2018 program, including projects, themes, policies and special activities.

## September Events Calendar

Both Campuses | Collins | Oxnard

- Aug 31 Back to School Night @ 6:00-8:30 pm  
**Oxnard Campus closes @ 5:00 pm**
- 4 **Labor Day – SCHOOL CLOSED**
- 6 Back to School Night @ 6:30-8:00 pm  
**Collins Campus closes @ 5:00 pm**
- 6 PAWS Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 7 PAG Event – Fire Truck Visit
- 12 PAG McDonald's Night @ 4:30 pm
- 12 Sage Brush Cantina Paws Fundraiser
- 17 PAWS Back-to-School Picnic @ 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
- 18-19 PAWS Event – Captain Carl
- 19 Start of Enrichment classes 9/19-9/25
- 19 PAG Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 20 PAG Event – Captain Carl
- 22 PAWS Babysitting Night @ 6:00-10:00 pm
- 26-28 Fall School Pictures
- 27-28 Fall School Pictures
- 29 PAG Kids Night Out @ 6:00-10:00 pm

## Donations



The Savary Family - Wood Pieces  
The Church Family - Toys

Your donations are appreciated. Thank you for thinking of WHPS and helping to make a difference!



Mr. Matthew



Ms. Tanja

## Science & Nature Center – “Our Barnyard”

Greetings from Mr. Matthew, Ms. Tanja, and all our animal friends! We are excited to see many of the same faces from last year, and even more excited to meet new friends. "Our Barnyard" is all about animal interactions with our students, and we hope everyone can have a great experience here. From little two year olds in preschool, all the way up to our fifth graders, we will be exploring their interests and helping them learn about what makes them excited to be in the Barnyard.

This year is also extra special for our Elementary Students. We have a new Animal & Nature Studies curriculum already planned out from the beginning of the year, with each grade building on the last. Our students will be learning about Evolution, Animal Care, Ecology, and Animal Behavior, including all the Next Generation Science Standards, as well as introducing some of our own WHPS Science Standards.

Classes are going to be great this year, but don't forget, it's HOT out there! Our animal friends would love it if you brought them special treats to help cool off. Cool lettuce soaked in cold water, ice cubes with a piece of fruit or carrot in the middle, and even frozen corn on the cob would really help them get through these tough times. Not to mention the animals LOVE it. Stay cool!

## Preschool News

Welcome everyone to our new and returning families at WHPS! We are so happy to have you all here and look forward to a successful school year.

As the children are still getting comfortable with their new environments, we have much to look forward to. The classrooms have already explored some wonderful activities and experienced the outdoor environments. September will bring many new provocations, explorations and investigations as we get on our way to a wonderful year. We will also focus on successful transitions and getting children comfortable with their new environments. What is most important these first two weeks is getting to know your child and family, and working together to have a positive experience here at WHPS!

We want you all to know that we are here to support you and your child. Robin and Ms. Ailin (Collins Campus) and Ms. Tracy and Ms. Christine (Oxnard Campus), are always available to assist you in every way. We would also like to thank all of our teachers for their family orientations and creating classrooms full of fun-learning experiences. Great job everyone!

The staff are excited for this new beginning and looking forward to a wonderful new year. Please mark your calendars for **Back to School Night on August 31<sup>st</sup> (Oxnard) and September 6<sup>th</sup> (Collins)** to meet with your child's teacher(s), discuss the curriculum and objectives for your child's classroom and meet other parents. You will also be able to learn about all the extra-curricular programs that will be offered throughout the year and ways to get involved in the Parent Association Groups (PAWS and PAG) will be available that night to meet & greet you.

### **School will close promptly at 5:00 pm. See you there!**

We are looking forward to a year filled with growth, learning experiences, challenges and success. We welcome you all. ☺



**Oxnard Campus**  
Ms. Tracy and Ms.  
Christine  
**Collins Campus**  
Robin and Ms. Ailin

## Items of Special Note

*From the 2017-2018 WHPS Parent Handbook*

### **Signing In and Out**

- Please use your full signature, not initials.
- Sign in and out every day.

### **Parking**

- Please park in designated parking spaces ONLY and avoid staff parking or fire lanes.
- WHPS parking lot and roadways are **cell phone free zones**.
- Hold your child's hand when in the parking or drop off areas.

## Elementary News

Welcome back to school! I'm so excited to begin another year with you, your children, and the wonderful staff of Woodland Hills Private School. I'm looking forward to building and continuing a strong partnership with families and supporting the growth of every child at WHPS. Our staffs are passionate and knowledgeable, and our curriculum reflects current research. But these two critical pieces are not the only pieces in the education puzzle. One of the biggest pieces is the school-home connection and parent partnerships. Now that we have all had a chance to settle into our first week of school, I'd like to touch on a few things that will further strengthen the school-home connection and help your child build a strong foundation for learning:

- Talk to your child. Be present in the moment when they come home from school. Ask specific questions about how their day was, and avoid the "it was good" or "nothing happened" responses. Some good questions from these first weeks would be: How did you greet your friends in your morning meeting? What kind of brain breaks/energizers did you do in class? Did you read to your teachers this week? What classroom rules/agreements did you discuss in class?
- Encourage your child to embrace challenges and not be discouraged by mistakes and missteps. We want our students to have a Growth Mindset not a Fixed Mindset. For more information, you can visit <http://www.mindsetonline.com/>.
- Check your child's homework, but don't do it for them! Let them learn that responsibility. Please don't turn your child's homework in for them. If we want our children to be empowered, then we need to provide them opportunities to become empowered.
- Check your child's backpack for any flyers or notices that may have gone home. This is also a great way to see what they've been up to in class. Validating their hard work in the classroom by reviewing what they take home will go a long way.
- Read your Weekly Newsletters from teachers. These are a great guide to asking your child questions and engaging them in conversations about their week.
- Come to the PAWS meeting on Wednesday, September 6th. PAWS is our school's parent association and is a great way to stay connected with the classrooms.
- If you have a question or concern, you can always ask. My door is always open, even when it is closed.
- Please follow our Woodland Hills Private School Face book page as well as your classroom pages. We will be posting regularly.
- COME TO BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT!

This year is off to a fantastic start! The classrooms are buzzing and there are smiles all around. We would love to keep this momentum going as the year progresses. If we all work together to support our children, their successes will be unlimited.



*Ms. Jacey Dexter  
Elementary Principal*

## Special Edition: What We've Been Up To

Some of our students took the summer off, but at WHPS, we have had a busy summer. We spent this time planning further enhancements to take our award-winning, academically-rigorous program to new heights. Here are just a few of the initiatives we have been working on this summer:

- **Facility Improvements** – We have continued to make improvements to the facilities at both campuses. These include new windows and shades (in progress), new flooring, a new adult restroom in the ranch building (Oxnard), and updates to the yards (in progress).
- **Technology Integration** – This year, we have partnered with Dr. Gina Amenta-Shin, an expert on educational technology, to design a multi-year plan for our students' (and teachers') use of technology. Our school is moving beyond basic technology-enhanced lessons, and Dr. Amenta-Shin will be helping us identify ways to transform teaching/learning with technology. We have purchased new laptops, which will be 1:1 for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The computer lab has been updated with additional devices for all other grade levels and will continue to house our 3D printing center.
- **Balanced Literacy** – Balanced Literacy is an important hallmark of WHPS that sets us apart from other schools. Balanced Literacy, based on revolutionary research from Columbia University Teachers College, enables our teachers to assess each student's needs in reading, writing, and spelling, and provide strategic, personalized instruction to continually advance as a learner. Our teachers have spent the past two years refining their professional practice in Balanced Literacy; collectively, the elementary staff has spent over 400 hours engaged in professional development for the program.
- **Handwriting Without Tears (HWT)** – In Pre-K, we are expanding on our use of HWT, a multisensory approach to teaching handwriting, letter formation, and phonics. HWT was designed by occupational therapists, and it provides children a strong foundation with fine motor and literacy development to ensure their success in kindergarten.
- **Responsive Classroom (RC)** – RC rounds out our academically challenging program, as it is designed to ensure that children are developing the strongest social skills possible. This summer, WHPS teachers attended two different summer institutes at RC, focusing on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, innovation, academic choice, and promoting autonomy and independence.
- **Animal & Nature Studies** – Our exclusive Science & Nature Center already provides students a unique way to learn Life Science in a hands-on setting with animals that can't come into a traditional classroom. This year, the curriculum has been revamped to fully incorporate the Next Generation Science Standards. Elementary families will receive a detailed curriculum at Back to School Night, but this now includes enhanced emphasis on: Evolution, Ecosystems, Agriculture, and Animal Care, Training, and Safety.
- **Science Curriculum** – We have expanded our use of the FOSS Next Generation Science program, which was designed by scientists at UC Berkeley (elementary) and added technology and materials to support Inquiry-Based learning (preschool).

We look forward to sharing more information with you about our program at Back to School Night this Thursday and throughout the year ahead.



Seth Pozzi  
Asst. Head of School