

# ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS

## 2023-2024



# GUIDE TO GIVING

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Like most independent schools, Woodland depends on the generosity of current families, grandparents, alumni, employees, and corporate matching to balance our operating budget and fund key initiatives. Together, contributions of all sizes support academic excellence today and sustain the long-term financial health of the school.

## August 28, 2024

### **DONOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION**

Woodland honors donors with cumulative giving of \$5,000+ at our annual Donor Appreciation Event. This cocktail reception highlights the impact of our lead donors' generosity.

## September 20, 2024

### **STATE OF THE SCHOOL**

All parents are invited to this annual meeting that introduces the Board of Trustees, highlights key accomplishments, presents the school's financial position, and launches our first fundraising campaign of the year: The Annual Fund.

## September - December 2024

### **ANNUAL FUND**

The Annual Fund is our community-wide fundraising campaign, fueling the operating budget and supporting exceptional opportunities for every student. We invite everyone to participate in closing the gap between tuition and the true cost of a Woodland education.

## May 3, 2025

### **GALA AND AUCTION**

In Spring, the Gala & Auction brings our community together to celebrate and to raise funds for key initiatives beyond the scope of the Annual Fund. Please mark your calendar for this beloved community event and help bring a new initiative to life this year!

## May - June 2025

### **8th GRADE CLASS GIFT**

The Class Gift is an opportunity for each graduating class to express thanks for the Woodland experience and leave a meaningful legacy. Launched by the Class of 2024, the inaugural Class Gift equipped The Wonder Cove with planter boxes, soil, seeds and tools - a heartfelt gift for Woodland's youngest learners from graduating families.



## Strategic Initiatives

Thank you to the following donors for leadership support of key initiatives in our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, *Inspired Voice: Meaningful Impact*.

Their generosity supports our goal to ensure sustainable growth and distinguish Woodland as a destination workplace where diverse, highly effective faculty and staff thrive.

Anonymous

Tasha and Ahmed Azzam

Natara Garovoy and Daniel Beck

Kelly McGowan and Tim Brady

Jennifer Warren and John Cesarek

Sharon Chang and Alec DeCherney

Jonathan and Christine DeLuna

Michelle and Michael Gabriel

Abby and Ivan Kirigin

Jinanne Tabra and Ramzi Ramsey

Jean Schaffner

The Senkut Family

Sharon Yang and William Shan

Archna Patel and Mohak Shroff

The Swank Family

Jessica and Eric Wei

Angie Wang and JZ Zhu

For information about supporting Strategic Plan initiatives, please contact Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Erin Stevenson, at 650.285.5226 or [estevenson@woodland-school.org](mailto:estevenson@woodland-school.org).



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

Woodland is deeply grateful for the incredible generosity and unwavering commitment of our school community. Every contribution, regardless of size, and every volunteer effort, from a few hours to year-long leadership positions, come together to make a significant impact.


## 2023-2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Total DONORS to Woodland **308** 



Total VOLUNTEERS **228** 



CLASSROOMS RENOVATED with Gala & Auction proceeds **2** 

ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTION to the Operating Budget **6%** 

Corporate MATCHING GIFTS **124** 

Corporate MATCHING DOLLARS **\$143,959**

**TOTAL RAISED FOR WOODLAND \$1,761,588**

Your contributions help Woodland create an exceptional teaching and learning environment that fosters the growth of our students, faculty, and staff. With your support, our students thrive and our programs flourish. Thank you!



# A letter from our HEAD OF SCHOOL and BOARD CHAIR

Jennifer Warren, Ed.D. and Sharon Chang

Each year, it is a pleasure preparing this report, which honors the generosity of our donors and highlights the impact of our community's collective giving and volunteer service. First-time donors, loyal annual donors, leadership donors, and those who amplify their generosity with corporate matching gifts are all celebrated in the pages that follow.

On behalf of Woodland, we extend sincere gratitude for each and every gift, along with the many acts of volunteer service that support our faculty, students, and staff throughout the year. We hope this report highlights the impact of our community's steadfast commitment and support.

As always, the philanthropic year began with the Annual Fund. The cornerstone of fundraising at Woodland, the Annual Fund plays a pivotal role, contributing 6% to our operating budget. It bridges the gap between tuition and the true cost of a Woodland education, ensuring every student thrives.



Sharon Chang, Board Chair

We are grateful that a record 92% of families in our community participated in the 2023 Annual Fund. Together, these gifts of all sizes made a real difference, resulting in nearly \$925,000 for Woodland and demonstrating

broad-based support for our work to educate the whole child.



Jennifer Warren, Head of School

In the spring, Woodland's Gala & Auction brought our community together for an annual night of celebration and philanthropy. Sincere gratitude goes out to all donors and our dedicated Gala & Auction committee for making the Starlight Gala a resounding success, with proceeds lighting the way to our work to enhance our science programs and spaces.

Next time you're on campus, peek into our renovated Lower School and Middle School science classrooms to see students at work in flexible, updated spaces that support advanced coursework and differentiated learning opportunities. Later this fall, we are eager to unveil The Wonder Cove, a geodesic greenhouse and outdoor learning space for ECE students.

Throughout the year, Woodland made substantial progress on our five-year Strategic Plan, *Inspired Voice: Meaningful Impact*. The generosity of our community provided vital financial support for strategic plan goals, both through our annual fundraising programs and thanks to leadership donors who stepped forward with vision and generosity to support specific initiatives.

As Woodland continues to advance our strategic plan, we look forward to sharing more information about ways philanthropic support can further strengthen the school's financial foundation and position Woodland to move forward with confidence and purpose in coming years.

# A message from the TREASURER

## Ramzi Ramsey

As Woodland Treasurer, I am pleased to provide this summary of the school's financial performance for the 2023-2024 school year.

Woodland's financial position continues to be solid with strong enrollment across the three divisions. Extended Day and Enrichment Programs continued to serve families in our community and, combined with stable enrollment, favorable interest income, and one-time grant funding, resulted in an overall 6% increase in revenue.



Successful fundraising programs resulted in the second highest donated revenue in Woodland history. The strength of our community was demonstrated in record parent participation and total number of donors to the Annual Fund. Together, donations to the Annual Fund combined with Gala & Auction proceeds resulted in over \$1.2 million in support of Woodland. This year's initiative, which included renovating both science classrooms, plus installation of The Wonder Cove for Early Childhood students, was generously underwritten by auction proceeds and Fund A Need contributions. I extend my thanks for this incredible generosity.

These fundraising results, along with rigorous expense management, and prudent financial controls ensured Woodland once again closed the fiscal year on budget. Thanks to this

strong execution, Woodland was able to advance several key initiatives. Successful completion of our solar installation not only supported Woodland's sustainability efforts, but also reduced our utility bill by 17%—despite inflation and spiraling energy costs. Moreover, Woodland reached a significant milestone by fully retiring its long-term gym debt in fiscal 2024.

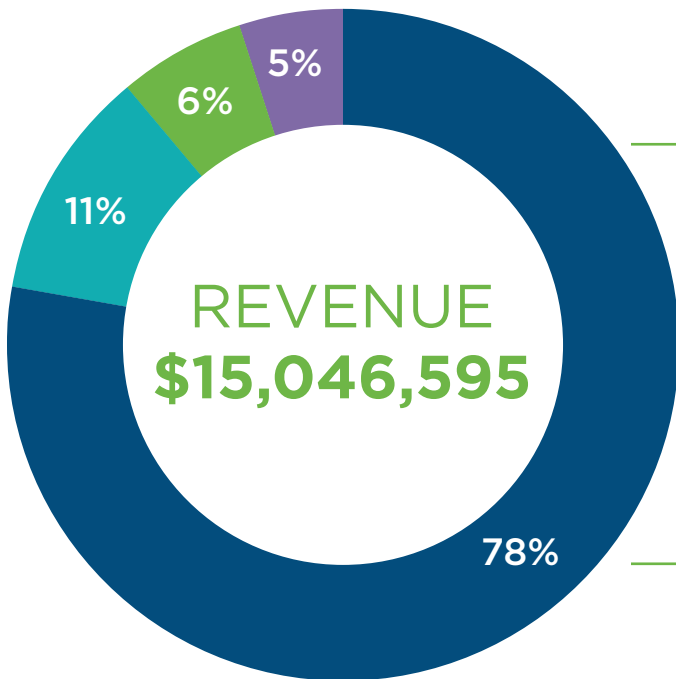
I also applaud Woodland for a successful first year of implementing our five-year Strategic Plan, *Inspired Voice: Meaningful Impact*. Thanks to our community's generous support of BASIS during the 2022-2023 school year, Woodland invested over \$60,000 in stipends for faculty who stepped forward to lead Strategic Plan initiatives. These roles included facilitating a DEIJ audit, examining alternative tuition models, exploring service partnerships with Bay Area organizations, and evolving our assemblies to a new Community Gathering model. In addition, I extend acknowledgement to the donors whose lead gifts support the Strategic Plan goal to ensure a sustainable future for Woodland.

Finally, the successful renewal of our Conditional Use Permit was a top priority for our Head of School and Board of Trustees throughout the 2023-2024 school year. This process was realized through many people's incredible commitment of both time and expertise. As Dr. Warren shared, we are pleased with the 10-year renewal approved by San Mateo County, and are appreciative for the cooperation with the Ladera community. Of note, this was also an expensive process that required extensive legal expertise.

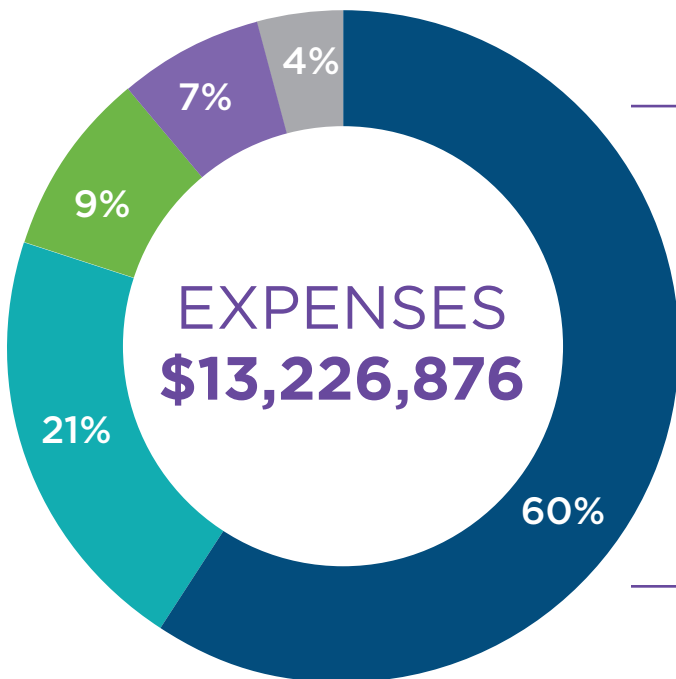
**Maintaining our secure financial position requires a steadfast commitment to sound fiscal stewardship and the unwavering support of our generous donors.**

Every contribution, of every size, sustains our progress and supports our plans for the future. With the continued partnership of our community, we can solidify our financial standing and ensure Woodland remains a place where our children flourish and reach their full potential.

# 2023-2024 FINANCIALS



- TUITION AND FEES
- CONTRIBUTIONS
- AUXILIARY PROGRAMS
- OTHER REVENUE



- PERSONNEL
- ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES
- TUITION ASSISTANCE
- ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
- CUP EXPENSES

Unaudited financials. Audited financials forthcoming.

# The Impact of YOUR SUPPORT - ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund helps finance co-curricular learning experiences that strengthen our work to educate the whole child:

- 100s** ▶ Earthworms supporting ECE gardening and sustainability curricula
- 5** ▶ Outdoor Education trips
- 7** ▶ Girls Mentor events
- 20** ▶ After-school athletics teams
- 134** ▶ Student athletes
- 21** ▶ Field trips
- 20** ▶ Exhibits/experiments at SciCon
- 470** ▶ Guests at Middle School musical
- 36** ▶ Middle school electives (including screenwriting, podcasting, design thinking, sports statistics, and graphic design, among others)





By providing 6% of our operating budget, the Annual Fund fills the gap between tuition and the full cost of a Woodland education for every student.

Annual Fund gifts support access to a Woodland education by contributing to tuition assistance, which supported 11% of students in 2023-2024.

Total raised ▶ **\$924,248**

Total donors ▶ **293**

Employee, trustee, Annual Fund Ambassador participation ▶ **100%**

Parent participation ▶ **92%**



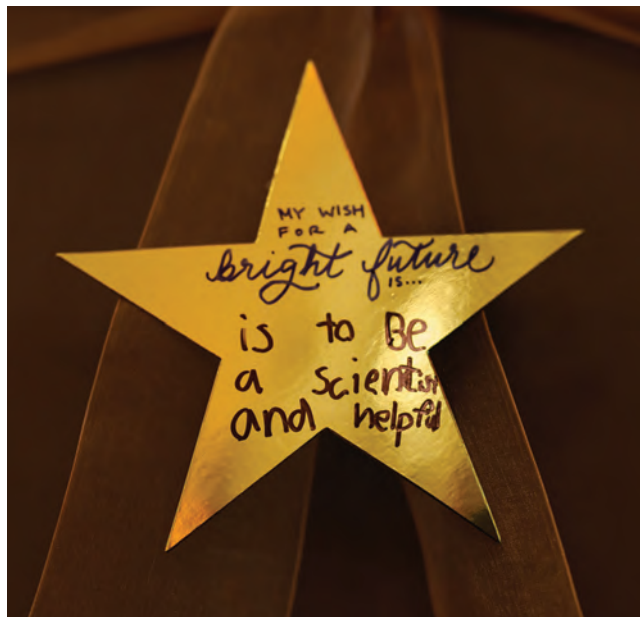
## 2023-2024 ANNUAL FUND AMBASSADORS

- Chairs - Natara Garovoy, Natasha Vinnik
- ECE - Chao Geng, Phong Nguyenle and Shan Foo
- Kindergarten - Sunny Li, Silvina Pugliese
- 1st Grade - Ang Li, Sharon Yang
- 2nd Grade - Laurie Hassett, Marlene Sholtz
- 3rd Grade - Tracey Fahmy, Brenda Trask
- 4th Grade - Christine DeLuna, Jessica Wei, Lisa Widup
- 5th Grade - Abby Kirigin, Jeremy Reid, Angie Wang
- 6th Grade - Ying Chen, Erin Walters
- 7th Grade - Michelle Ma, Ben Malka and Lara Kohn
- 8th Grade - Janet Land, Lisa Zhang

# GALA & AUCTION, May 4, 2024

One of the largest Woodland events each year, the Gala & Auction is a terrific opportunity to celebrate what matters most: our wonderful school community. More than just a fundraiser, the Gala builds connection, camaraderie, and community spirit.

Thanks to the incredible support of our community, this year's "Starlight Gala" was a resounding success, raising over \$338,000 in auction proceeds and Fund A Need gifts to illuminate our students' futures with reimagined science spaces and programs. These funds will make a lasting impact, extending beyond the reach of our Annual Fund.



**Ticket holders**  
**235**



**"Count Me In" events**  
**for adults, kids & families**  
**23**

**Mark your calendars for**  
**Saturday, May 3, 2025**  
**for the next Gala & Auction!**

Special thanks to all donors and to our Gala & Auction committee for lighting the way to a truly brilliant celebration!

**COMMITTEE**

- Leana Fowler
- Hillary Goddard
- Kristine Griffith
- Laurie Hassett
- Sarah Lundell
- Monica Mendez
- Mindy Rubin
- Marcia Wing
- Grace Wong
- Lisa Zhang
- Veronica Zimmerman



**Bids**  
**1,229**



**Package Donors**  
**120**

**Teacher Treasure events**  
**17**

# Impact of Your Support - GALA & AUCTION

Each year, proceeds from the Gala & Auction support priorities that go beyond what the Annual Fund makes possible. Over the summer, Woodland put auction bids and Fund A Need gifts to work on a holistic upgrade to our science spaces and programs.

Demolition began Monday after graduation and by 4th of July new flooring was laid in the Lower School and Middle School science classrooms. New cabinet installation followed, providing quick access to the tools and technology for advanced experiments and interactive learning experiences. Fresh counters and lab stations were up next, followed by modular tables that flex for both individual experimentation and collaborative team projects. The finishing touch was installation of 21 new windows providing enhanced natural light.



Square feet of new flooring in science labs ▶ **1,700**

New windows in science labs ▶ **21**

New cabinets in science labs ▶ **66**

Square feet of new countertops ▶ **184**

Gallons of paint ▶ **19**

New sinks and fixtures ▶ **7**

New magnetic tables and stools ▶ **32**

New lab stations ▶ **5**



Immediately following Conditional Use Permit approval in June, Woodland submitted the permit application for The Wonder Cove. In parallel, site preparation plans were laid. Most exciting, Woodland prepared orders for 67 lineal feet of planter boxes and designed planting plans integrated with Early Childhood's hands-on, experiential science program. Scheduled for completion in this Fall, The Wonder Cove will extend existing and new Early Childhood curricula related to gardening and sustainability.



*A shared resource and opportunity for our community, The Wonder Cove will be accessed and cared for by ECE and other divisions.*

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Pages in Wonder Cove  
permit application ► **10**

Wonder Cover diameter ► **22'**

Cubic feet of soil for Wonder Cove  
planter boxes ► **8.5**

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## **Inaugural Class Gift**

The Class of 2024 came together to support the Gala & Auction in a new way: With a legacy gift from graduating families to Woodland's youngest learners. Together, Class of 2024 families donated nearly \$25,000 to equip The Wonder Cove, a geodesic greenhouse and outdoor learning space with planter boxes, soil, seeds, and gardening tools to bring this environmental hub to life for Early Childhood students. Thank you to the Class of 2024 for making an enduring gift to students embarking on their Woodland journey—and for launching a new Class Gift tradition in the process.

## **Class Gift Donors**

Nassim Khonsari and Hossein Azimi  
Natara Garovoy and Daniel Beck  
Fereshteh Lesani and Kouros Behzad  
Jessica Wu and Christopher Brichford  
Andrew and Margarita Demkin  
Michelle and Michael Gabriel  
Stephanie and Mac Harman  
Claire Ridding and Alastair Johnston  
Sweta Ashwarya and Fnu Kaustuv  
Joy and Joseph Kent  
Janet and Stephen Land  
Teresa Ong and Gabriel Lucas  
Junling Ma  
Shannon Peavey and Akhil Madhani  
Adam and Crystal Matye  
Isabelle Young and Juan Pablo Mejia  
Jennifer and Everett Meyer  
Pinky Mukhi and Shital Patel  
Anjali and Vivek Rao  
Lisa Albers Silberman and Josh Silberman  
Aida and Louis Soto  
Hana and Jeffrey Yoshimura  
Andre Nudelman and Lisa Zhang

# Thank You, VOLUNTEERS!

Woodland thrives thanks to community involvement and volunteers who play indispensable roles on behalf of students, faculty, and staff throughout the year. Whether you lent a hand on a field trip, served as a Room Parent, spearheaded a memorable school event, or guided a committee's success, your contribution of time and talent is truly invaluable. Woodland is deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment all year long.

TRUSTEE Δ WSPA LEADERSHIP # ROOM PARENT © WSPA EVENT CHAIR ¶ GALA AND AUCTION □  
 ANNUAL FUND AMBASSADOR ‡ COMMUNITY COORDINATOR ◆ ADMISSION AMBASSADOR † MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL ∞  
 MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS' MENTOR PROGRAM ^ OVERNIGHT TRIP CHAPERONE ≈ ATHLETIC COACH √ SCI CON PANELISTS \*

Federico Acabbi Δ  
 Daria Acker  
 Zainab Al-Shamma  
 Erika Alor © †  
 Sweta Ashwarya  
 Kristin Atkins  
 Sarah Axtell  
 Tasha Azzam ¶  
 Aira Bagheri Torbehbar  
 Tara Beer  
 Federica Belli # ©  
 Gordon Bentley  
 Melanie Bentley † # ©  
 Sue Berry  
 Julie Bert  
 Mark Binger  
 Sharon Binger Δ † ^  
 Michael Bitondo  
 Marko Blagojevic  
 Chris Brichford  
 Juli Bronzini  
 Stacy Brown-Philpot Δ † ^  
 James Brundage Δ  
 Jaimie Buss †  
 Maria Cadavid ^  
 René Caissie  
 Purdey Castle ¶ †  
 John Cesarek \*  
 O'Brien Chalmers

Sharon Chang Δ  
 Tian Tian Chen  
 Ying Chen † †  
 Alison Cheung Δ  
 Garlene Cheung # † ^  
 Denise Ching  
 Jack Chiueh  
 Valerie Chow  
 Dora Chu  
 Corinne Cristiani  
 Dan Cristiani  
 Hiroko Cruz  
 Alexa Tondreau Dahl  
 Roxana Daneshjou  
 Alec DeCherney  
 Christine DeLuna †  
 Jonathan DeLuna  
 Maggie Demkin  
 Alex Driskill-Smith  
 Michelle Driskill-Smith ©  
 Mike Dybbs  
 Natalie Esfahanian  
 Tracey Fahmy †  
 Colleen Falls Δ  
 Craig Falls  
 John Fernandes  
 Margaret Ferris ¶  
 Bonnie Fisher ◆  
 Clark Fisher †

Shan Foo †  
 Leana Fowler □ †  
 Michelle Gabriel Δ  
 Genevieve Gaines †  
 Julie Galles Δ  
 Natara Garovoy †  
 Chao Geng †  
 Helmi Ghali  
 Jason Gioia √  
 Hillary Goddard □ † ©  
 Chris Griffith  
 Kristine Griffith □ ^ † ©  
 Aarti Gupta  
 Sakshi Gupta #  
 Ansel Halliburton  
 Ivana Hansen ^  
 Mac Harman Δ  
 Stephanie Harman  
 Ester Harris ◆  
 Laurie Hasset □ † † ¶  
 Schenelle Henry  
 Mariá de Jesús Hernandez Perez  
 Anne Hoecker Δ  
 Justine Isola  
 Sarah Jados # © †  
 Ario Jafarzadeh  
 Alastair Johnston  
 Aparna Jorapur  
 Neha Joshi Δ # ¶ †  
 Liz Kelly  
 Joseph Kent  
 Joy Kent ¶ †  
 Abby Kirigin Δ † †  
 Betsy Kitchens  
 Katie Koenig  
 Lara Kohn †  
 Lehmann Koo ^  
 Reza Ladchartabi  
 Janet Land † ∞  
 Steve Land  
 Candy Lau Pindrik ©





Jeremy Lawrence  
 Lauren Lawrence \*  
 Nik Leist  
 Ang Li ‡  
 Farrah Li  
 Jean Li  
 Sunny Li ‡  
 Juergen Lindner  
 Maren Lindner #  
 Katty Lotfi  
 Jacquie Lombard ©  
 Lingxiao Long  
 Kelsey Lopez ‡  
 Jingxiao Lu  
 Sarah Lundell □  
 Michelle Ma ‡  
 Sean Ma  
 Jai Madhok  
 Ben Malka ‡  
 Purnima Mani ©  
 Niharika Marwah  
 Aron Mason  
 Melissa Mason  
 Michael Mastrandrea Δ ‡ \*  
 Adam Matye  
 Cynthia Maxwell  
 Jason Mendelson © ◆ ∞ ≈  
 Monica Mendez □ © ‡ ¶  
 Neha Menon  
 Fei Meng  
 Jen Meyer  
 Victoria Michalchuk ^  
 Sarah Mirza # © ‡  
 Andrew Moore  
 Lauri Moore  
 Desiree Motamedi  
 Tyler Mysen  
 Madoka Nakauchi  
 Phong Nguyenle ‡  
 Michelle Ocampo #  
 Rebecca Olson ‡  
 Laura Palekar ‡ ¶ ©  
 Nikhil Palekar  
 Amita Paul  
 Shannon Peavey ©  
 Jane Pejcha ¶ ◆  
 Pallavi Phene

Chris Philpot # ©  
 Christine Picco  
 Dmitriy Pindrik  
 Anantha Poluri ^  
 Brian Pong ‡  
 Bruno Posokhow  
 Samy Pourali ‡  
 Greg Prisant  
 Silvina Pugliese Δ ‡ ‡  
 Michael Purkey  
 Neha Purkey # ¶ ‡  
 Sabrina Qwan ◆  
 Leslie Radda  
 Ramzi Ramsey Δ  
 Payal Rana  
 Sophia Randhawa ©  
 Anjali Rao ^  
 Dikisha Raval ‡  
 Jeremy Reid ‡  
 Julia Riechert ‡ ◆  
 Lilian Rincon ^  
 Melanie Rothenberg  
 Mindy Rubin □  
 Kari Schaiman  
 Sandra Schofield  
 Marlene Scholtz ‡  
 Jeff Schwegman  
 Jen Scott ©  
 Aamna Shah © ¶  
 Manisha Shahani ©  
 Christina Shedletsky  
 John Shedletsky  
 Linxi Shi  
 Lisa Silberman © ◆  
 Minhye Sim  
 Aida Soto Δ ◆  
 Lilla Spivak ¶  
 Kirsten Steffner #  
 Jenn Sun ©  
 Kevin Sun  
 Gabe Swank Δ ‡  
 Jessica Swank ‡  
 Jinanne Tabra ‡  
 Jaclyn Taernhed # ©  
 Fidelia Tahuiton  
 Andrea Tang  
 Megan Tang ◆

Sonya Taravella ‡  
 AJ Tennant  
 Amber Tennant ◆ ‡  
 Lisa To  
 Brenda Trask ‡ ©  
 Aruna Venkatesan  
 Grace Vesom  
 Vignesh Vijayanath ¶  
 Natasha Vinnik ‡ ‡ \*  
 Emily Walker  
 Erin Walters ‡  
 Michael Walters Δ  
 Angie Wang Δ ‡ ‡  
 Don Wang  
 Jingyi Wang  
 Rob Ward  
 Jennifer Warren  
 Eric Wei  
 Jessica Wei ‡  
 Natalie Whearley  
 Lisa Widup Δ ‡ ^  
 Keith Williams  
 Sam Wilson  
 Marcia Wing □ ¶  
 Andy Wong √  
 Grace Wong □ © ◆ ¶ ‡  
 Iris Wu  
 Jessica Wu ‡ © \*  
 Kent Yan  
 Sharon Yang ‡  
 Ryan Yee  
 Gülin Yilmaz  
 Won Yoon  
 Hana Yoshimura  
 Isabelle Young  
 Sun Yu  
 Natalie Yuen  
 Betsy Zager  
 Russell Zager  
 Amin Zareian  
 Christina Zhang  
 Jinming Zhang  
 Lisa Zhang □ ‡ © ^  
 Jiajun Zhu  
 Veronica Zimmerman ‡ □ ^

# GRANDPARENT and SPECIAL FRIEND DAY

## November 17, 2023

**Grandparent and Special Friend Day** is an annual highlight at Woodland, where students and their loved ones come together for a day of shared experiences and celebration. Local grandparents and special friends, or those traveling to the Bay Area for the Thanksgiving holiday, gathered on campus for a welcome coffee, an all-school assembly, and classroom visits while those unable to attend in person enjoyed the all-school assembly as a livestream.

The all-school assembly illustrated the breadth of our curriculum through captivating performances and presentations. Early childhood students recited a Friendship Cake poem, kindergarten students demonstrated their mastery of pattern making in math, 5th grade showcased Woodland's visual arts curriculum with totem poles they created, and Middle School students explained key concepts they learned in the Personal Finance elective.

With a schedule structured for multiple classroom visits, guests joined students for classroom tours, hands-on activities with manipulatives, 3-D printer demonstrations in the Innovation Lab, and a rousing ball toss game on the blacktop. As always, the day was infused with hugs, smiles and laughter that highlighted the special relationships between students and these important people in their lives.



**Save the Date: November 22 Grandparent and Special Friend Day 2024**