

WOODSTOCK ELEMENTARY FAQ

Below is some general information that Woodstock PTA has put together to help new parents know more about Woodstock Elementary School. You will hear specific information regarding your child's classroom and teacher(s) at your **Kindergarten Parent Orientation the week of September 8-10**, which will take place during your child's classroom assessment. If you have more questions in the meantime, please email info@woodstockpta.com.

1. **When is the first day of school?**

The first day of Kindergarten is Friday, September 11th. A list of school supplies will be sent home in August or you can visit www.woodstockpta.com to view the school supply lists as soon as they are available. For immersion students, supply lists for each teacher should be kept separate. PTA, along with Shu Ren, organizes a back-to-school potluck after school on Friday, September 11th. It's a great time to socialize with other parents so please join us!

2. **What should I know about traffic flow and parking at school?**

To decrease congestion and increase safety for kids crossing, drivers are encouraged to park a block or two away from school. Traffic on the east side (by the front entrance) of school should enter from Harold or Ellis Street and travel south on 50th. There is a designated drop-off and pick-up waiting area by the curb; please do not stop in the middle of the street, even for a brief period. When waiting for your child, please remember to shut off your engine; to protect kids' health, the entire perimeter of all schools in Portland is a no-idling zone.

3. **How does the purchased lunch system work?**

Lunch cards can be purchased from Janice, in the kitchen, next door to the auditorium/cafeteria. They can also be purchased and tracked online at www.mylunchmoney.com. To prepay online, you have to have your child's student ID number, which can be obtained by calling the school. Lunch cards are kept on the wall, by the door of the cafeteria, and will always be in the same slot so you can show your child where his/hers is kept. Your child will pick up the lunch card while waiting in line for lunch.

4. **How can I volunteer at Woodstock?**

You will need to fill out a background-check form before you may volunteer at school. You can download this form at www.woodstockpta.com and have it ready to bring to school in the fall, or pick one up in the front office anytime. Background forms take 2-3 weeks to process. Woodstock PTA covers the cost of each background check so please fill one out! When volunteering, parents sign in using the computer on the front office counter. A nametag will print out for you to wear while in the building. Don't forget to sign out when you leave the school.

5. **How can I find out how to help out in my child's classroom?**

Each class will have a classroom parent representative who will be in communication with teachers about classroom volunteer needs. Your classroom representative will contact each family soon after school begins either via email or with a letter. You can always ask your child's teacher, as well, about ways to get involved in the classroom. If you are unsure about approaching a teacher, please ask your classroom parent representative about ways you can help.

6. **How can I volunteer outside my child's classroom?**

There are many opportunities to help out around Woodstock School. Enclosed in this letter is information about both Shu Ren and PTA volunteer needs. Find something on both lists that fits your schedule. Volunteer opportunities will also be listed in the weekly newsletter along with other school, PTA, Shu Ren, Site Council updates and information. When you volunteer, you show your child that you value their school. Research shows that parent volunteering boosts student performance!

7. How can parents learn more, or ask questions, about curriculum matters?

Curriculum issues can be addressed through a group called Site Council. Site council is made up of Woodstock principal Mary Patterson, both English and Mandarin program teachers, one parent representative from the neighborhood/English program and one parent representative from the Mandarin Immersion Program. Site council meeting dates are posted in the office and all parents are welcome to attend these meetings. Parents are also encouraged to contact current parent representatives (Stephanie Allisany, sylph@hushmail.com, for the MIP, and Eric Polgar, epolgar@wschiro.edu, for the English-only program) to voice opinions and ask questions. More information can be found at www.woodstockpta.com.

8. What should I do if my child is sick?

The school office opens by 7:00 am. Call the school office and let them know if your child won't be in that day, so the teacher and staff know that *you* know where your child is.

9. How can I help my child be ready for kindergarten?

Woodstock Elementary emphasizes writing and reading skills. Practicing letter recognition/sounds, and having your child write their name, is helpful. If your child is able to begin practicing phonetic writing, you could help him/her practice writing 1 or 2 sentences to describe a picture they have drawn or an experience they have had.

10. What will the first few days of school be like for my child?

Your child's weekly school experience will start with Monday morning meeting. These meetings are held nearly every Monday during the school year. The entire student body and staff gather in the gym from about 8:30 until 8:50. The principal addresses the school, individual students receive "Pride Inside" ribbons or other recognitions, there may be a skit emphasizing a particular behavior, such as sharing. Parents are always welcome to sit in on these all-school meetings.

Morning Class: For safety reasons, students are not allowed to be in the school without a parent until after 8 am. 8:10: First bell rings. Students may now enter classroom. 8:15: Tardy bell rings. Students are expected to pick up a tardy slip in the front office if they are late for school. Half-day Kindergarten ends at about 10:45. Morning classes end at about 11:00 for lunch and Immersion children walk their belongings to their Chinese/English afternoon classroom, and then go to lunch. (Lunch buckets are taken down to the lunchroom, where students put them after eating.)

Lunch: 11:00-11:25. K-2 kids eat together in the cafeteria and overflow room by the gym. Ms. Doty, the librarian, and another adult supervise students during this time. Students finish lunch and return cold lunchboxes to a bucket in the cafeteria marked with their afternoon teacher's name. (Specific students are assigned to bring the class bucket back to the afternoon classroom.) If your child is not finished eating, s/he can move to a table in the middle of the cafeteria to finish.

Recess: 11:25- 11:50. Students go out to the playground where an adult supervises them. On rainy days, they are assigned to different indoor activities by class, including toy/game room, stage games, library, indoor gym area, etc. *If it is lightly raining/misting they usually go out, so please dress your children appropriately for the weather.* At 11:50 the bell rings and students line up by class. Their afternoon teacher picks them up and walks them to the afternoon classroom. Parents are welcome to visit during lunch and recess time, but must check-in at the office to receive an official name badge for security. Recess monitors will not allow you to talk to your child over the fence during recess.

Afternoon Class: 11:50 - 2:30. Dismissal bell rings at 2:30. Someone must pick up kindergarten students at the classroom door at the end of every day. Please have your child picked up promptly at 2:30 so their teacher can finish his/her other duties for the day. Should there be a delay in pick-up, students will be walked to the front office where they will wait. Students are allowed to leave the classroom by themselves in 1st grade.