



STAFF CHANGES

Although we are sad to see the departure of several staff members including, Doug O'Keefe, who's been with us since the fall of 2000, we are very excited to welcome the following new staff:

Perrine Laurent, who will be taking over the French program and helping at the front office with administration. Amongst other qualifications she is a graduate of the Sorbonne in Paris where she studied Italian and has a certificate in institutional administration and management.

Chris Pickering, who will be teaching Physics and Math, as well as a new science elective, Astronomy. He has ten years of teaching experience and is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Johns Hopkins in the field of astrophysics. He has worked as an analyst on the Hubble Space Telescope.

Tiffany Spohrer, who will be teaching Chemistry and Math. She is a graduate of Tulane University, New Orleans in Science and creative writing with a Katrina semester at USF, where she is now an MFA candidate. She worked as a researcher for a physical chemistry lab, working on DNA's biological function. She has worked as a tutor and swim instructor.

Andrea Feeny and Norma Ward, who have been working with us independently in college counseling and mental health counseling respectively, are now joining us as members of our staff. The new energy and experience they bring will further enhance Woodside's program, complimenting well the current excellent staff of twenty full and part-time teachers and tutors.

WASC ACCREDITATION

Everyone will be pleased to learn that we have been granted the maximum accreditation term of six years by WASC, as a result of their visit last spring. We thank all members of the community, teachers, students, and parents, for their help with the visit as well as Mark Asire, who chaired the visiting committee.

SCHOOL UPGRADES

Besides some thorough cleaning and reorganizing, the school will not be undergoing any noteworthy changes

for the new school year, but there will be a few changes including new furniture and upgrades to computer networks. We are also working on implementing a web-based school information system for the spring semester, which will greatly enhance communication between the school and families. A brand new ping-pong table has been purchased thanks to the generosity of one of our parents, Yasuko Naiki. We so appreciate such gestures of support.



GUYANA ROCK II

Due to the success of the first Guyana benefit concert, we shall be hosting another rock concert in September to raise funds for the Alisa Foundation, in support of the Amerindian school in Guyana. We are shipping five mini laptops this month to the school. We purchased these with the proceeds of the last concert and a generous contribution of another of our parents, Marion Hunt-Badiner. More information on this project is available in the school lobby and from John Edwards. The rock concert will again be organized by Daniel Bromfield, whose inspiration and help has been invaluable and so appreciated. He manages to bring together young up and coming bands from the Bay Area and we appreciate their willingness to support our cause.

CLASS CHANGES

The main class changes include the new science elective of astronomy. This, like anatomy, will be an elective and will not count as a science lab for college application purposes. However it does add an exciting new science dimension that compliments our curriculum well, including elements of physics, chemistry, biology, history, and philosophy.

We also are hoping to revive the Russian language class, although this is not yet confirmed.



COLLEGE COUNSELING

Summer is a great time to visit a college campus or two to see what kind of college suits you. SENIORS applying to UC or private colleges in the fall should work on your essay so your English teacher can review it when you return to school.

The UC essay prompt asks for 1000 words divided across 2 essays with at least 250 words each.

UC Prompt 1: "Describe the world you come from, for example, your family, community or school and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations."

UC Prompt 2: "Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?"

The Common Application used by private colleges asks for at least 250 words on 1 of 6 essay choices.

Common App Prompt 1: "Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you."

Common App Prompt 2: "Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you."

Common App Prompt 3: "Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence."

Common App Prompt 4: "Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence."

Common App Prompt 5: "A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you."

Common App Prompt 6: "Topic of your choice."

Feel free to contact College Counselor Andrea Feeney for more information at afeeney@wissf.org or (415) 810-3128

CLASS SIGN-UPS

Call to arrange an appointment for class sign-ups beginning Monday, August 23rd

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE CHANGE

All orientations will be held Friday, August 27th at the school. All new international students will have orientation from 1:00- 2:00. All American students including Freshman will meet from 2:30 to 3:30.

PERMISSION, EMERGENCY FORMS AND IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Please see the enclosed form that contains permission for field trips and off-campus privileges, medical information, and emergency evacuation information. This form is very important and needs to be filled out and returned promptly in the envelope provided. For some new students and a few continuing students, we may still need copies of immunization records. If there is a slip of paper enclosed with this newsletter requesting these records, please enclose them with the permission form.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Parents will have an opportunity to see the teachers and learn about their courses on Wednesday September 15th from 6:30 to 8:15 PM. Parents of new students are *strongly encouraged* to attend and returning parents are welcome. Mr. Edwards will introduce the evening with a brief talk and then parents will be directed to the classroom where the teachers will introduce themselves and their classes. Parents are advised to attend the full evening to get the maximum benefit.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

We will be taking school pictures for the yearbook and student records, on Thursday September 23rd. Parents that wish to have copies of their student's picture, should contact the school to arrange to have it sent via e-mail.

HOW TO CONTACT US:



For routine inquiries: admin@wissf.org, (415) 564-1063. For admission related questions, contact Ariel at aedwards@wissf.org. For class selections, tuition, or other administrative topics, contact John Edwards at jse@wissf.org.