Faculty and staff come together to prepare for the new school year... and to have their photo taken! Some might be back for the 40th time - some the first time; the average is about 16 times. No matter how long they have been here, the School of the Woods faculty welcome you back for the 2018-2019 school year.
A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Students and Families,

On behalf of all faculty, staff, and the Board of Trustees, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! I hope everyone’s summer was filled with family, friends, fun, and relaxation. This year our school community will be 350 children and adolescents (265 families), and 62 teachers and administrative staff.

We have been busy this summer with meetings and planning final details for the construction of the new high school and all school gym. I hope you have seen the progress on our new High School building. As you can imagine, it takes many hands for this type of project to proceed from dreams to reality. We are all grateful for the team spirit and collaboration we have experienced with our contractor, engineers, architects and consultants.

School of the Woods has been educating children in accordance with Montessori philosophy for 56 years; creating life-long learners in a setting committed to educating the whole child. September brings me great excitement as I see the school come to life with laughing children and dedicated parents. It is my honor to oversee such a vibrant community.

Keep an eye on the calendar and our redesigned newsletter. The faculty and staff have planned many events to help you orient to the classrooms, connect with fellow parents, and visit with teachers. I hope to see you there!

Wishing you a wonderful year.

Sherry Herron, M.Ed.
SUMMER FUN AROUND CAMPUS

1 Ninja-turtle Hanlin on his scooter
2 Nola and Clara with their hand painted shirts from the first Performance Art Workshop
3 Andrew zooming past on bike day
4 Some of the ensemble during a performance of Pinocchio
5 Jeries showing his skills on the playground
6 Soraya smiling in her bike gear
7 Breaking from song and dance practice during "Hey George"
8 Charlie having a blast on bike day

SCHOOL PHOTOS!

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 – HIGH SCHOOL
(GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL PICTURES)
OCTOBER 1, 2018 – WIRT CAMPUS
(GROUP PICTURES)
OCTOBER 2, 2018 – WIRT CAMPUS
(INDIVIDUAL PICTURES)

All School Welcome Coffee
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018, 8:15-10 AM
WIRT ROAD CAMPUS, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MEET FELLOW PARENTS. STAY INFORMED. DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!
HIGH SCHOOLERS AT CAMP CHO-YEH

"I've gone to Cho-Yeh for three years now and I think it's a great time to bond with the whole school. The mentor mentee pairs push you to do things you wouldn't usually do and it's a great experience." - Avery

"Cho-yeh was super fun because I got to bond with the other girls in my grade. I was new to the school this year and Cho-yeh was the perfect way to get to know the school!" - Caroline

MONTESSORI AND THE HOME

Pilar Higginbotham and Bridget Tomlinson, Early Childhood Teachers, will discuss child development and the Montessori Philosophy for children ages 2 1/2 to 6 years. Learn how preparing your home environment will assist your children. Hear tips on morning routines, meal times, and play-space organization.

Saturday, October 21, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Wirt Road Campus

There is no charge for this event. Adults only. Childcare NOT provided.
RSVP REQUIRED

CHILI COOK-OFF

OCTOBER 28
GREAT FOOD
TALENT SHOW
INFLATABLES
CRAFTS
FACEPAINT
12 NOON - 3 P.M.

BETSY'S BUZZ

COFFEE WITH DR. COE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS

OCTOBER 9, 2018 - 8:45-10 AM - WIRT ROAD CAMPUS
Our new building has...

- **29** SMOKE DETECTORS
- **90** WALL STROBES
- **3,875** FEET OF RED WIRING

in place for the fire alarm system!

The exterior walls are in place, and interior work is under way.

We are excited to see our new high school building taking shape!

Watch for real time updates on www.schoolofthewoods.org
SCREENAGERS
JOIN US FOR A VIEWING AND DISCUSSION OF THE MOVIE

HOSTED BY: School of the Woods
OPEN TO: Parents, Students (recommended for 4th grade and above), teachers, and friends
LOCATION: Waltrip High School Auditorium
1900 W 34th Street, 77018
DATE: Saturday, September 29, 2018
SCHEDULE:
• 9 a.m. Registration and Greeting
• 9:30 a.m. SCREENAGERS movie viewing
• 10:45 a.m. Questions and Answers with Crystal Collier, PhD, LPC-S
RSVP REQUIRED.

Dr. Crystal Collier has been working with adolescents and adults suffering from mental illness, behavior disorders and substance abuse since 1991. Her area of expertise includes adolescent development, prevention programming, independent living skills training, parent coaching, and training new clinicians.

If you are interested in a more in-depth workshop, join us for lunch and an afternoon program with Dr. Crystal Collier.

Questions, contact Cindy Oldham at cindy.oldham@schoolofthewoods.org or 713-686-8811

SCREENAGERS VIEWING RESERVATION- MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
BOX LUNCH RESERVATION-MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018
OPEN TO ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS
6-8 PM AT THE HIGH SCHOOL
...let’s talk about it!
Crow Canyon
A Parent Chaperone’s Account of the Fourth Grade Trip
BY JENNIFER HOFMAN

One evening last fall, I got a text from a friend saying, “Do you want to go to Colorado with me?” I replied, “Absolutely” and started picturing sitting by a fire in an amazing rustic cabin. Somehow, the next morning I was at the school filling out paperwork so that they could do a criminal background check, and signing that I would chaperone 14 fourth graders for a week in Colorado.

I really had no idea what I was getting into when we left for Crow Canyon, but I couldn’t have been more impressed with the whole experience! We flew to Durango, connecting through Denver, and then, took a big yellow school bus to Cortez, Colorado. We stayed in a dorm-type building and slept on bunk-beds. The bedrooms were divided as follows: six boys with two chaperones; four girls with one teacher; and the remaining four girls with the other teacher.

We learned more about the Anasazi people (ancestral Pueblo people) on the first full day than I thought we would learn in the whole week. We learned about the different time periods the Anasazi lived in, their tools, shelters, pottery, traditions, religion, food, etc. We started our days in the classroom learning about one of the time periods and after lunch we would hike to a life size replica of the shelters/ houses. These shelters and homes became our classrooms for the afternoon. We had lessons on fire starting, we used atlatls to throw spears, made pottery, participated in cleaning real Anasazi artifacts, and the list goes on. This all led to our final day where we visited Anasazi archeological excavation sites at Mesa Verde. I was so impressed with the knowledge that we had all acquired! Every child could look around the site and tell in which time period these people lived.

I fully plan to go back to Crow Canyon again in two years when my younger child is in fourth grade. It was a wonderful experience!
# ALL SCHOOL CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>ALL CLASSES IN SESSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10-14</td>
<td>Middle School: Camp Allen ROPES Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>African-Drum &amp; Dance Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Early Childhood / Kindergarten: New and Returning Parents' Orientation, 6:00 p.m. - Funk/Loftin</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Early Childhood / Kindergarten: New and Returning Parents' Orientation, 6:00 p.m. - Tomlinson/Vargas</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Early Childhood / Kindergarten: New and Returning Parents' Orientation, 6:00 p.m. - Lutzel/Shpata</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Elementary: Class Social &amp; Orientation for New and Returning Parents, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Collins/Harbaugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 17 – Oct. 19</td>
<td>Middle School: Cycle 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>All School: Welcome Coffee - 8:15-10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 23-28</td>
<td>Upper Elementary: 4th-grade History Field Study, Crow Canyon Archaeology School, Colorado</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>All School: New Volunteer Information Session, Wirt Road, 8:15 a.m.</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>High School: Individual Student Pictures &amp; Group Pictures</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Class Group Pictures: Wirt Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2-5</td>
<td>Individual Pictures, Wirt Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2-12</td>
<td>All School: Flower Power Fundraising Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Gymnastics Classes Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>All School: Adult Social: Back to School, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9-12</td>
<td>High School: Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Parent Education: Betsy's Buzz, Middle and High School Parents, Wirt Road, 8:45 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>High School: Pot Luck Supper, 6:00 p.m., Intersession 1 Mtg, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>All School: Events Planning Meeting, Wirt Road, 8:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>High School: PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) for 10th and 11th Grades, 8:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15-19</td>
<td>High School: Intersession 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Elementary: Evening of Learning - Children Teach Parents, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Clark/Mclhaney</td>
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<td>October 20</td>
<td>Parent Education: Montessori and the Home, Early Childhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22-26</td>
<td>Middle School: Wellness Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Elementary: Evening of Learning - Children Teach Parents, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Schwarz/Cusack</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>Upper Elementary: Evening of Learning - Children Teach Parents, 6:00-7:00 pm</td>
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<td>October 24-25</td>
<td>Middle School: Social Networking/Sexuality Presentations Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Elementary: Evening of Learning - Children Teach Parents, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Collins/Harbaugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>All School: Chill Cook-Off 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 29 - Dec. 14</td>
<td>High School: Quarter II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 29 - Dec. 14</td>
<td>Middle School: Cycle 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>All School: Fall Parent Coffee, Wirt Road Campus, 8:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Welcome back!**

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**VOLUNTEER**

Join fellow parents in the many opportunities to volunteer. Log on and discover how easy it is to participate and be a part of our many school events.

To sign up, visit [SignUpGenius](#) through the school’s website, where you will see 30-minute shifts for this year’s events.