

Reflections from the Head of School



To The Woodhall School Community:

The 2023-24 school year is poised to become one of the most memorable in the school's history. We will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of The Woodhall School with programming and events throughout the year, culminating in the Gala and Alumni Reunion on June 7-9, 2024. Later this fall, the Board of Trustees and I will announce the school's five-year Strategic Plan and share the Campus Master Plan for The Woodhall School.

Before we launch into this important school year, I want to reflect on the school's decennial accreditation process from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The school's exhaustive Self-Study was chaired by Sasha Skulsky, Assistant Head of School, and we then hosted the NEASC Visiting Committee on campus in May and October of 2022. The school received its decennial accreditation in November 2022 with the following major commendations and recommendations from the Visiting Committee as endorsed by the Commission on Independent Schools:

Major Commendations

The Program Visiting Committee commends The Woodhall School for its broadly-shared embrace of the Mission. All constituents expressed appreciation for the good work of the school and the transformative effect upon the students.

The Program Visiting Committee commends The Woodhall School for the dedication of adult mentors and staff. The level of care for the students and willingness to routinely go above and beyond was repeatedly noted and is appreciated by the students themselves.

The Program Visiting Committee commends The Woodhall School for its signature Communications Program, a distinctive and exceptional process that is intricately woven into the program.

The Program Visiting Committee commends The Woodhall School for the visionary leadership of the Head of School, balancing tradition with innovation in order to provide a better environment and experience for the students.

Major Recommendations

The Program Visiting Committee strongly recommends the completion of the strategic plan and related setting of priorities, incorporating formal input from a broad range of stakeholders and consistent with the Self-Study observation that *The School is at an inflection point in its history, and the Head of School and Board possess a keen awareness of the importance, if not urgency, to move forward in the planning process.*

The Program Visiting Committee recommends the completion of the criteria for professional excellence, guiding the adult mentor and staff evaluation system and informing the professional development program.

The Program Visiting Committee recommends that The Woodhall School articulate and publish a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement and complete a related plan for implementation.

The Program Visiting Committee recommends that The Woodhall School complete and implement its alumni engagement plan.

The Program Visiting Committee recommends that The Woodhall School complete and publish its curriculum review and continue to pursue academic innovation.

The entire decennial accreditation process is akin to our Communications Program, as a school must engage in institutional self-reflection and accountability. Essentially we must ask are we (the school) actually doing what we are saying we are doing? It is no surprise, then, that we are very much aligned in our self-study as to what we need to work on. Indeed, since November 2022, we have made tangible progress in fulfilling the major recommendations, not least among them, our Strategic Plan.

As for the major commendations, it was most affirming to receive objective feedback from outside our school community that Woodhall's mission, program, and the work of its dedicated adult mentors, is making a tangible difference in the lives of its students.

I invite you to reach out to me if you have questions or want to discuss further the findings and implications of our self-study and decennial accreditation process.

Now, though, let us look to the future. I hope to see many of you in person either on campus or at one of the gatherings planned for various cities and regions across the country this year. To the alumni, in particular – your alma mater is calling! Whether you were here in 1983 or just graduated in 2023, we want to hear from you and have you reconnect with the people and the place that made a lasting impact on your education and your future. Ultimately, the celebration of the school's 40th Anniversary is a celebration of you.

Here's to the school's first 40 years and beyond – Go Phoenix!



Matthew C. Woodhall
Head of School

Happenings Around Campus

PAVILION

The new pavilion is complete allowing us to connect as a community - whether for classes, Communications Groups, cookouts, Family Weekends, Commencement, for boys gathering on the weekends, or for an intimate conversation with a student and his mentor. We were able to enjoy the pavilion over Spring Family Weekend, and again over Commencement Weekend. This summer will see a beautiful fireplace and BBQ grill addition.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIREPLACE AND BBQ GRILL



THE COMPLETED PROJECT



Spring Family Weekend



We hosted families
back to campus for our
Spring Family
Weekend!



40th Anniversary

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JUNE 7-9, 2024

Mark your calendar for the weekend of June 7-9, 2024, and please join us as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Woodhall School!

We will have events throughout the 2023-2024 academic year to celebrate our 40th anniversary culminating with the Anniversary Celebration & Gala during Alumni Weekend. Stay tuned for more information about all of these exciting events.

Watch for the 40th Anniversary page on The Woodhall School website. Here you will be able to:

- View events that are scheduled throughout the year on and off campus.
- Find links to hotels where we have blocked rooms for you to reserve for the weekend
- See who is coming back for the weekend - classmates, families and faculty
- View regional events throughout the country
- Register for the weekend (after January 2024)
- Reserve dorm room accommodations in dorms on campus - sign up will be on a first come first serve basis on the webpage



Banner artwork created by
Charlie Jones'24

We look forward to welcoming you back
to campus!

Woodhall Turns 40!

The 2023-2024 academic year marks the 40th anniversary of The Woodhall School. Four decades ago, Sally Campbell Woodhall and Jonathan A. Woodhall, and a handful of dedicated educators and family friends shared a dream to create a different kind of school for boys: where the mind, body, and soul of a boy is one; where adult mentors and students dispense with labels, believing that ninety-nine percent of learning happens outside the classroom; where an individualized approach addresses the needs of the whole boy: his intellectual, physical, moral, and spiritual growth; where other schools have said “no,” The Woodhall School has said “yes.” A generation of boys has become the Gentlemen of Woodhall, and the school continues to provide opportunities for success for bright young men who, for a variety of reasons, have yet to realize their full potential. The school’s motto, *Soli Ipse Adesse*, translates to “Be present to [the student] himself alone.” At Woodhall, we are present to the whole student. We meet the boy where he is rather than demand an expectation of where he should be.





Basketball

by Max Drogin '24 - Contributing writer

The Phoenix had a successful 2022-23 season, finishing with a record of 8 - 3, one of the best records ever for a Woodhall basketball team. Woodhall also won the Maplebrook Invitational Tournament and came home with a large, golden trophy as the spoils of victory. Sophomore J.P. Larkin was our scoring leader, averaging 14.8 points per game and tallying 133 total points. He was also a force on the defensive end, leading the team with an average of 4.3 steals per game for a total of 39 steals. Senior Jake Wier led the Phoenix in rebounding, averaging 11.6 rebounds per game with a final total of 128 rebounds. He was also a nightmare for opposing players in the paint, as he finished the season with a team leading 5 blocks. Senior Tenzin Tseten was another force down low, finishing with 86 rebounds. Our passing king was junior Charlie Jones, averaging 4 assists per game with a final count of 44 assists, while conducting the team's offense from his point guard position. The team also had contributions from senior Avi Hammer, who ended with 23 points, and junior Max Drogin, who ended with 30. Key players off the bench included Jonah Ball, Varick Shah, Allan Soshnik, and Jacob Eckman. The team overcame many challenges including injury, conflicts, and even mid-game illnesses, yet finished the season on a 5-game winning streak, showing how far the team had come as a whole and how far the players had come as individuals. Coaches Noonan, Marcinek, and Phuntsok guided the team to significant improvements as competitors on the court and as good sportsmen in victory and defeat.



Outdoor Challenge - Spring

Spring Outdoor Challenge engaged students with hiking, kayaking, and canoeing this term. The group was a mix of returning students and new students who had not yet participated in the sport. As a group, we sought out new trails to engage all members of the team. Outdoor Challenge explored areas of Litchfield, Kent, and Meriden this term. In lieu of Bear Mountain, the boys did a challenging hike up to Castle Craig. In the Spring term we also focused on skills like knot-tying, and the boys were more hands-on with the loading and unloading of boats from the trailer. This season, the boys particularly enjoyed the trails at Boyd Woods in Litchfield, as well as the old train tunnel in the Steep Rock Preserve.



Fitness and Conditioning

Fitness and Conditioning met for afternoon practices Monday through Saturday. During shorter practices, students focused on working towards their personal goals in our campus weight room. We worked with boys on form and provided workout ideas while also checking in regularly with each boy regarding their progress. Each Wednesday we were joined by former NFL player Chris Ortiz, who worked with the group on strength, agility, and speed. We also had opportunities to support Woodhall's competitive sports teams and to volunteer at a local five-mile road race.



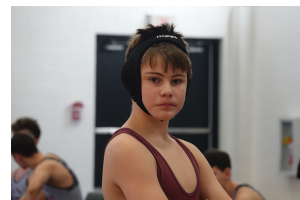
Lacrosse

The Woodhall School lacrosse team aimed to instruct young men in the collaboration required to compete in this fast-moving and high-contact game. As a member of the Hudson Valley Athletic League (HVAL), the team participated in a series of games throughout the Spring Term. Though initially the team focused on the basic skills and conditioning required to play the sport, the coaching staff widened the scope of our lacrosse program to include positive community engagement through communication and conflict resolution. As the boys began to engage more positively with one another and with our community, the lacrosse team shared several successes with the school as a whole, most notably during our Family Weekend victory over Marvelwood. As the season progressed, the team sought to develop a close camaraderie between the young men of the lacrosse program and the school as a whole.



Wrestling

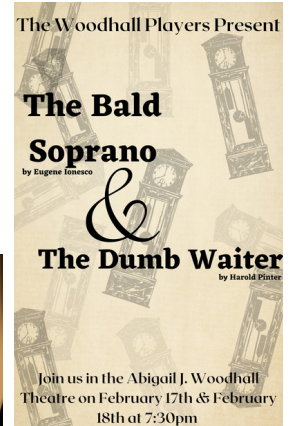
The Woodhall School Wrestling program aimed to instruct young men in the discipline of freestyle wrestling. As a member of the Western New England Preparatory School Wrestling Association and the Hudson Valley Athletic League (HVAL), the team participated in dual, quad, and tournament-style meets throughout the Winter Term. Though the program focused specifically on the physical strength and fortitude required for this time-honored sport, our program widened the scope of our practice to include the development of mental, moral, and emotional fortitude as members of The Woodhall School and wider wrestling communities. This season offered the opportunity for weekly practices with Taft School and participation in their ESPN-televised Western New England Tournament. From the outset, the program sought to develop a close camaraderie between the young men of the wrestling program and a set of expectations for each wrestler as laid out by the coaches.



Drama - Winter

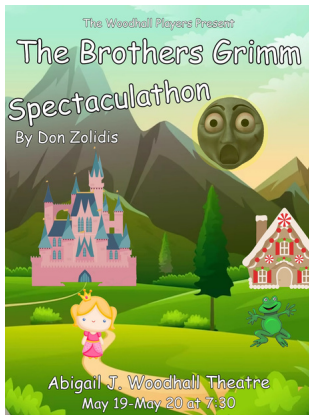
The Bald Soprano & The Dumb Waiter

For our winter production, we performed two one act shows, *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco and *The Dumb Waiter* by Harold Pinter. Our main goals were to expand the work that Theatre Tech would do, give our inexperienced actors a chance to become comfortable on stage, and provide our experienced actors a more challenging piece to work with. The boys stood up to the challenges that we put in front of them, and delivered a great show.



Drama - Spring

The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon



Our Spring production was *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* written by Don Zolidis. Our main goals for this term were: build on the work that theater tech did in the winter and give the students more challenging projects, give our inexperienced actors a chance to become comfortable on stage, and provide our experienced actors more opportunities to hone their skills. The boys rose to the challenges that we put in front of them, and delivered a great show at the end term. The Woodhall School Players ended the year on high note as we were nominated for six Halo Awards.



The Connecticut Halo Awards celebrate the best in high school theatre. The awards honor high school students' achievements in numerous categories including: Best Actor and Actress in a Musical/Play; Best Supporting Actor and Actress in a Musical/Play; Best Performance by the Cast in an Ensemble Production; Best Comic Actor and Actress in a Musical/Play; Best Student Choreographer, plus categories for lighting, design, stage management, special effects, and many more. This year the Halo Awards celebrated their 20th anniversary, and over 90 high schools from across Connecticut participated!

Nominations...

- Best Scenic Design and/or Execution: Charles Thomas, Max Korenstein and Luke Fischer for *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*
- Best Performance by a Couple or Dynamic Duo in a Play: Huck Novotny and Zach Manzano as Mr. and Mrs. Smith in *The Bald Soprano & The Dumb Waiter*
- Best Performance by a Cast in an Ensemble Production: *The Bald Soprano & The Dumb Waiter*
- Best Male Standout Performance in an Ensemble Production: Jay Medeiros as Mrs. Martin in *The Bald Soprano & The Dumb Waiter*
- Best Comic Male Performance in a Play: Walter Montgomery as Fire Chief in *The Bald Soprano & The Dumb Waiter*
- Best Costume Design and/or Execution: Aidan McKee for *The Bald Soprano & The Dumb Waiter* and *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*

And the Winner Is...

Best Performance by a Couple or Dynamic Duo in a Play: Huck Novotny and Zach Manzano as Mr. and Mrs. Smith in *The Bald Soprano & The Dumb Waiter*



Yearbook Dedication

The 2022-2023 Yearbook is dedicated to Mr. Paul Noonan. Mr. Noonan has worked with the gentlemen of Woodhall for a decade now and continues to inspire the boys by modeling the expectations of the community. He's known for his wit, humor, and strong sense of sportsmanship. Mr. Noonan is currently an English teacher and former dorm parent and. Thank you, Mr. Noonan, for your work within our community. The faculty, staff, and students are grateful for your wisdom, honesty, and your ability to always find just the word we are looking for.



39th Convocation and Graduation - June 3, 2023

We returned to the Abigail J. Woodhall Theatre for the 40th Annual Academic Convocation and Commencement Ceremony! Our ceremony once again affirmed the process of transformation and empowerment that the Gentlemen of Woodhall undergo.



Alumni, families, adult mentors, and students shared in recognition and celebration of the power of our community and process. Congratulations to the Gentlemen of Woodhall. To the Class of 2023—we wish you the best of luck!





Congratulations 2023 Plaque Award Recipients

Head's Award:

Dorothy L. Peirce Award for Significant Academic Achievement:

Dorothy L. Peirce Award for Significant Academic Achievement:

Kenneth E. Chant Award for Significant Progress:

Communications Award:

Abigail J. Woodhall Award for Excellence in the Arts:

Carl G. Seefried, Jr. Award for Sportsman:

Phoenix Award:

Noah Henry Greenfield

Harrison Nicholas Ave'lallemant

Tenzin Tseten

Zachary Sandler Manzano

Zachary Sandler Manzano

Owen Jacob Wier

Charles John Goertel

Cayden John Miller

College Acceptances - Class of 2023

Adelphi University

American University

Belmont University

Chatham College

Clark University

Clarkson University

Colorado School of Mines

Drew University

Eastern Tennessee State

University

Endicott College

Florida Institute of

Technology

Hofstra University

Lebanon Valley College

Manhattanville College

Ohio Wesleyan University

Quinnipiac University

Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute

Rochester Institute of

Technology

Roger Williams University

Stevens Institute of Technology

Tulane University

University of Connecticut

University of Denver

University of Hartford

University of Rochester

Western New England

University

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Alumni News

Dumitru Mahoney '17 - Dumitru is working as a gallery attendant at The Dia Beacon, an art museum in the Hudson River Valley. He continues to create his own paintings and sculptures. Dumitru will complete his Associates Degree in fine arts this year and plans to pursue his BFA after that.

Alexander 'Sasha' Rosner '17 - after sheltering at home during Covid, Sasha moved out to Colorado Springs a year ago. He promptly got a job, a car, and an apartment! He currently lives with his birth brother and two cats. He has continued his twice-weekly voice lessons (for 4 years now!) and sang in public for the first time last Halloween.

Jon Warnick '12 - received his bachelor's in sociology from Northern Illinois University. He was invited into the honor society for sociology and he has really done a great job there. His professors really like him. He will start at the University of Wisconsin at Madison for his MSW in the fall.

Seth Liebman '17 - should be getting his bachelor's from Towson University in December. He's majoring in environmental studies. He is currently doing a semester at Sunshine Coast University in Australia.

Matthew Siege '18 - congratulations on his graduation (5/23) from Rochester Institute of Technology, with a BS in physics and his being named a 'School of Physics & Astronomy Research Scholar'. Matthew was also named to the dean's list.

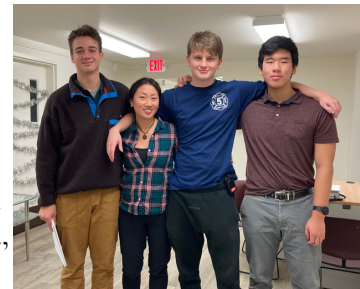
Nicholas Thompson '04 - moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is working as a lot technician at Kings Toyota since April 2022. He is really enjoying his job. He obtained his Eagle Scout rank in September 2003.

Cameron Bosch '16 - of Chappaqua, NY, received a Master of Science degree from Adelphi University.

Alexander Neuschotz '19 - of New York City, graduated *cum laude* from Haverford College in May with a Bachelor of Science in math and classical languages. He will begin work toward his doctoral degree in the classics at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.



This year's commencement provided a mini-reunion for recent graduates. Pictured left to right: Maika Hammer(brother of Avi Hammer '23); Bradford Blanchard '21; Jake Wier '23; Henry Lippman '22; James Tobin '22; Avi Hammer '23; Graham Rivers '22.

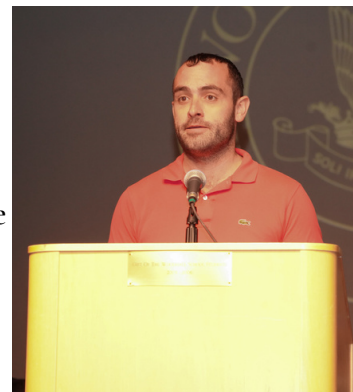


Sean Finnegan '22, stopped by to visit and catch up with Charlie Goertel '24, Ms. Mokrisky, and Tenzin Tseten '23.

John-Paul Campbell '95 - John recently wrote a letter to Mrs. Woodhall with an update on what he has done since Woodhall. He thinks of his Woodhall days often - Mrs. Pierse, Miss Abby, Mr. Fuller. Marty's french toast, chess club - so many memories to recall! "I really benefitted from my time at Woodhall and it's possible that I would never have obtained my high school diploma without my Woodhall education. After Woodhall, I lived in Vermont for years, then Texas briefly and finally Colorado. I completed my education and studies in diesel fuel. I am currently enjoying solving technical issues related to diesel. I get paid for doing something I love! I am married, have three beautiful children, and live in Denver. We get out to the mountains when we can."

Steven Hefner '16 - reached out in May from the Appalachian Trail. He started hiking the trail in late March in Georgia and hopes to make it to Maine by early fall.

Aaron Miller '08 arrived at Woodhall from Bethesda, Maryland in September 2004 as a ninth grader. Aaron's first year as a student was also Mr. Woodhall's first year as an educator at the school. Having assumed teaching Miss Abby's English 9 class when she had to stop working during the final months of her life, Mr. Woodhall remembers poignantly working with Aaron that school year. He later served as Aaron's advisor. During his time at Woodhall, Aaron was known for his business acumen, running the school store and arguing passionately on the merits of having a Starbucks franchise in the little town of Bethlehem. Aaron's mother, Cheryl Weinbrenner, an educator who started her own Montessori school, and his father, Jon Miller, an architect who lent his skills and talents in the design of the school's theatre and art gallery, and Aaron, himself, remained connected with the school well after his graduation. Woodhall welcomed back Aaron in his new role as a trustee this past April.



Reflect on your time at TWS - My Woodhall experience has played a significant role in who and where I am today. I was able to have conversations, some more tense than others, whether it be through another student, faculty member or administrator. The communications piece of Woodhall is essential, and Woodhall's emphasis on that as a pillar set me up for having conversations, personal and professional, from when I started as an undergraduate to present day.

What do you miss about TWS? - The friendships and supportive faculty. Also, there is no true fall season in Hawaii, and it's nice to see the leaves change.

Memorable moment while at TWS? - Biking from campus to Watertown, CT – the hills up Magnolia Hill Road were insane. Also, Ms. Mokriski telling Physical Fitness to run the entire campus; I got away with skipping the driveway more than she probably knows about.

What would you tell today's students? - I was a 4-year senior, and there was a significant adjustment period when I first got here. For underclassmen, I would say that it gets easier as you progress. For seniors, I'd advise emphasis on location when picking a college/university – I went to school in New Orleans, and the city and entire experience was unforgettable.

What have you done since you graduated from TWS? - I got my bachelor's degree in 2012, and became a licensed CPA in 2018. I've lived in 5 different states (not including Connecticut) and have traveled internationally. I currently live in Hawaii!

What are you doing now? - I'm a principal at a public accounting firm in Honolulu. When I'm not working, I'm usually at the beach, bar hopping, or on a Tinder date.

What do you see in your future? - Hawaii is paradise, and I don't intend to move elsewhere. My career outlook is bright. Also, lots of Mai Tais and a year-round tan!

Alumni Gatherings

Woodhall Hits the Road - Washington D.C.

The Woodhall School hit the road this past year, venturing as far as the west coast. On November 10, 2022, Matthew Woodhall, Head of School, and Priscilla Loomis, Director of Advancement, headed to the Washington D.C. area for a wonderful gathering hosted by Eric and Julie Skolnick, parents of Avi '22. In attendance were about 30 alumni and alumni families, sharing stories of their days at Woodhall. Mr. Woodhall shared updates to the campus, programs, and faculty with the group. Keep an eye out for trips beginning this fall celebrating the 40th anniversary of The Woodhall School!



Julie Skolnick, AP'22, Jack Wells '22, Eric Skolnick, AP'22



Front row: Aaron Roit '96, Robin Roit, Lisa Silverman, AP'21, Robin Meszoly, GP'24, Riva Mirvis, P'24, Danny Ball, P'24, Martin Miller and Jo Meszoly, P'24, Charles Miott '09, Thomas Maskell, AP'15. **Back row:** Lee Murtha, Liz Ramer, Jeremy Wittes '95, Rory Miott, AP'09, Matt Woodhall, Julie Skolnick, AP'22, Sharon Cohen, AP'17, Michael Liebman, AP'17, Jon Miller, AP'08, Cheryl Weinbrenner, AP'08, Janet Satterthwaite, AP'20, Eric Skolnick, AP'22, Jack Wells '22, Joe Maskell '15

New York City

On Thursday, December 1st, Matthew Woodhall, Head of School, and Priscilla Loomis, Director of Advancement, traveled to New York City for a gathering of alumni, alumni parents, current parents, and friends at Melody's Piano Bar, hosted by alumni parent Sondra Neushotz, AP'19. We had an outstanding attendance, and it was wonderful to see so many old and new faces.





San Francisco

A group of Woodhall alumni, past parents, current parents and friends gathered at the home of Stephanie and Mark Breitbard, AP'22, in Mill Valley, California, on Tuesday, February 29, 2023. Everyone was delighted to meet up with classmates, reminisce about their time at Woodhall, and hear Head of School Matthew Woodhall talk about what's new at Woodhall and the upcoming 40th anniversary. Matt Woodhall and Director of Advancement, Priscilla Loomis, also had the opportunity to visit with alumni Ethan Hess, '07, and Spencer Post, '15.

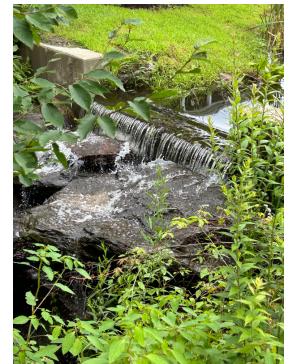


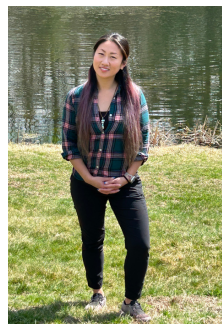
Matt Woodhall and Ethan Hess '07



Matt Woodhall and Spencer Post '15

The Year in Photo Review





The Phoenix Fund and the 40th Anniversary

The philanthropic spirit is alive and thriving at The Woodhall School. Unlike at many independent schools, when you give to Woodhall, you are not supporting operational expenses; instead, you are helping us to realize new possibilities and opportunities for the adult mentors and the Gentlemen of Woodhall, be it programming, equipment, or facilities.

This year we have expanded your ability to support Woodhall. In addition to sending a check or paying by credit card on the website, you can now donate to Woodhall through Apple Pay and Venmo.

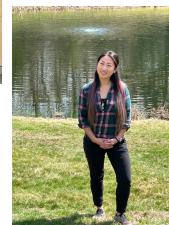
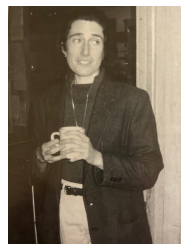
Over the past four decades, one gift at a time - regardless of the size - has helped The Woodhall School become a more fully realized institution.

As we begin the 2023-2024 academic year, we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of The Woodhall School. As Head of School, Matthew Woodhall, mentioned in this newsletter, he and the Board of Trustees will share with the community the Five-Year Strategic Plan and the Campus Master Plan. It's an exciting time to be part of the Woodhall community. This school year, when you make a gift in honor of the school's 40th Anniversary, you will be supporting professional development for our adult mentors as improvements and additions to our facilities.

By making a gift in honor of the 40th Anniversary you will ensure the sustainability of The Woodhall School and its core values of integrity, compassion, and respect and the core of our school community: our adult mentors, past and present.

With your gift – no matter what the size – you are contributing to the success and growth of the school. Your participation will also inspire others in our community to support the school.

ADULT MENTORS PAST AND PRESENT



FACILITIES



Adult Mentors

2023 - 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

We are proud to welcome back to The Woodhall School our adult mentors for the 2023-2024 academic year. Our students are very lucky to have such a great group of role models and educators!

Back row: Charlie Reisman '15; Matthew Woodhall; Richard Spaulding; Alden Mahoney; Tim Marcinek; Paraic McGann; Paul Noonan; Aaron Terry
Front row: David Ng; Sasha Skulsky; Tim Coughlan; Tashi Phuntsok; Ed Gelzheiser; Orla Mokriski-Schley; Alex Cavacas; Jarred Booth; Simon Culley; Tal Peron



FAMILIAR FACES

As we begin our 40th academic year, we celebrate the milestones of these dedicated adult mentors. From left to right: Tashi Phuntsok starts his 23rd year; Ed Gelzheiser starts his 22nd year; Orla Mokriski-Schley, Richard Spaulding and Matthew Woodhall all start their 20th year; and Paul Noonan starts his 11th year.



New Beginnings

The start of the 2004-2005 academic year started as usual, getting ready for the return of students, and welcoming new adult mentors and staff. September 2004 was a little different though - Woodhall was in need of a new chef. Arriving on the scene was an established local chef, Chris Griffith. Chris and his wife, Debbie had run a very successful local restaurant serving German cuisine on Bantam Lake, The Deer Island Gate. Chris started working at the restaurant for its then owners, and then Chris and Debbie bought it. In 2002 Chris and Debbie sold the restaurant and in September 2004, Chris received a call from Litchfield resident Paul Martin, who had taken care of his refrigeration systems at the restaurant. Paul told him he had just been to The Woodhall School and they were looking to hire a chef before school opened. Chris met with Sally Woodhall and the rest is history.

Now, twenty academic years later, Chris Griffith is retiring from his position at The Woodhall School. We are all going to miss Chris, not only for his wonderful meals, but for his conversation, cooking and Rufus!

Chris and Debbie sold their home in Washington, Connecticut, and will be relocating this September to Calabash, North Carolina, to enjoy the sea and sunshine. Calabash is on the intercostal-waterway, and Chris plans to buy a skiff, get onto the water and do a little fishing. In time, they'd like to purchase an RV, to do longer road trips.

What will you miss most? Cooking! The routine of cooking is what I enjoy and of course interacting with the boys.

What was your most memorable moment? It was a Parents' Weekend, don't remember the year. It was raining, and the courtyard was all mud. We had a tent up, and the barbecue was set up just outside Velge Hall's door. The smoke was coming into the building, the smoke detectors kept going off, and everyone was covered in mud. The faculty member who lived above the dining hall at the time, Jim Morgan, took his shoes off, had an umbrella, and shuttled everyone back and forth to the tent.

We will miss Chris, but we wish him and Debbie well as they enter the next phase of their lives, retirement! Chris made sure that we would be left in good hands before he left, with weekend chef Anita Yunge taking over at the helm.

May the wind be always at your back. May the sun
shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft
upon your fields and until we meet again, may
God hold you in the palm of His hand.



We will miss you, Chris. Godspeed.

WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?



An Invitation to Join the Woodhall Legacy Society

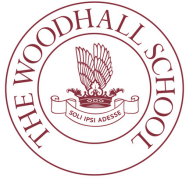
PLANNED GIFTS CREATE A LASTING LEGACY WHILE OFFERING FLEXIBLE STRATEGIES FOR YOUR ESTATE AND CHARITABLE PLANNING. THESE OPTIONS CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INCOME AND EVEN REDUCE YOUR TAXES. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR LEVEL OF WEALTH, YOU CAN SUPPORT WOODHALL THROUGH CREATIVE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING.

Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to:

- Make a gift that costs nothing during your lifetime
- Give stock and realize larger tax savings
- Receive a quarterly paycheck for life in return for your gift
- Donate your house, continue to live in it, and get a tax break at the same time

For more information regarding planned giving options, please contact Priscilla Loomis, Director of Advancement at 860-619-2661, email at ploomis@woodhallschool.org, or visit the planned giving section of the Woodhall website at:

www.woodhallschool.org/planned-giving



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