



**WOODSTOCK SCHOOL**  
EDUCATION FOR A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GUIDE



# THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT WOODSTOCK

The Elementary School at Woodstock provides an individualised education for young children that not only lays the foundation for future academic excellence, but also develops self-confidence and a love for learning that will continue to enhance their careers and choices for the rest of their lives. The curriculum prepares students for the next stages of learning.

Woodstock is a dynamic and exciting international school that attracts students from over 20 different countries and all major world religions. About 80 of Woodstock's 475 students are in the elementary programme, from the Early Childhood Programme through Grade 5. Students may enter boarding at 7 or 8 years

of age. Many parents of boarders work in India and abroad in development, government, business, Christian or public service work.

Elementary School caters to students from the Early Childhood Programme through Grade 5, usually within a range of 3 to 11 years of age. Children who will be five years old by July 31 are eligible for entrance into Kindergarten during July of the same year.

The Elementary classrooms are in a colourful and lively wing of the school. Classes are intentionally kept small to create a close teacher-student relationship and a positive environment for academic success.





### ***Learning and Exploring Together***

Our dedicated and qualified teachers live on campus and, in addition to teaching, run social and other extracurricular activities for their students. There is play time in the Quad before school and during the morning and lunch recesses.

As a school rooted in its Christian heritage and values, the spiritual growth of students is as important to us as their academic, social, and physical development. The religious education curriculum focuses on learning about the Christian faith, and there is also a weekly meeting of the 'Friendship Club,' with Bible stories and games.

While Woodstock is founded upon and stresses the importance of strong, service-oriented Christian values, teachers and residence staff members are committed to promoting understanding of and respect for all faiths.

The Elementary School has morning assembly once a week. This is a lively time with singing, presentations and usually a story from a guest speaker. Elementary students in boarding also attend Sunday School at a local church.

### ***Facilities***

In addition to well-equipped classrooms, Elementary School boasts a performance auditorium, art and general music rooms, a learning assistance room and a large library, staffed by professional librarians, with a collection of around 19,000 books. All students are encouraged to make reading a lifelong habit and to use computer and electronic resources to enhance their research.

The Hanifl Center for Outdoor Education and Environmental Study is another valuable resource for students in Elementary School. The Center's programmes enrich classroom instruction by providing dynamic opportunities for hands-on study and experiential learning across the curriculum.

The 20-bed Health Centre near the main school building is open around the clock. A doctor visits three times a week, and registered nurses are always on duty. When children are ill, they are admitted overnight, but when any child grazes a knee, has a sore throat, or just needs some tender loving care, the Health Centre nurses and staff are there to help.

## ***Living Together***

Elementary School boarding students live at Edgehill. The residence is a ten-minute walk up the hill from the main school campus, and its large playground provides energetic youngsters with plenty of space to play.

Parents cannot be replaced, but your child will have attentive residence staff to provide a home-like and nurturing atmosphere. If your child needs some adult attention, residence and academic staff members are available for parenting and giving extra help in academics.

In addition to these support systems, your child will have several roommates and will not be alone. The youngest children are assisted in personal care by an ayah or helper. Students soon learn to look after themselves and their belongings.

An average day starts at 6:15 a.m. Breakfast is served at 7:00 a.m. Classes are held from 8:30 a.m to 3:25 p.m. Students have tea (juice and a snack) after school and then attend organised after school games, clubs, choir, dance, or drama practices. They check into Edgehill at 5:15 p.m. for group announcements and have dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. Students may choose vegetarian or non-vegetarian meals. We serve a mixture of Indian and international food.

On weekday evenings, devotions follow dinner. Homework starts being assigned in the last quarter of grade 4, and at this point students begin to have evening study hall. Milk and a snack round off the evening, and children are all tucked into bed by the residence staff by 8:30 p.m.



## ***Student Life***

Elementary students are escorted to all activities and to and from school. Organised social activities are held at least once a week. These may be school-wide events such as talent shows, drama productions, concerts or open houses at the student residences. There are lunchtime and after school activities such as basketball, gymnastics, chess, Indian music and dance and a running club.

Several events throughout the year are specially designed to promote student contact across grade levels and contribute to the family-like atmosphere of the community. Each semester, "Big Brother/Big Sister Day" unites elementary and high school students for a day of forming mentor relationships and having fun.



More often, the Elementary School has its own activities, including scavenger hunts, roller skating, indoor and outdoor games, class nights at their teachers' homes, barn dances and karaoke nights.

On one Saturday every month students go into the bazaar with their residence staff. Other Saturdays may be spent visiting events at neighbourhood schools, attending sports days, engaging in service projects or just relaxing.

Throughout the year, students can take advantage of the elementary school hiking program, which offers an array of interesting local hikes. Students can enjoy learning about the ecology and beauty of their unique environment while earning "hiking points" toward bronze, silver, and gold medals.

Woodstock has three counsellors who are trained to work with children in individual, group, classroom, or even family settings while your child is a student here. School Counsellors are helpers for children at the school – we are the "feelings teachers" who help kids with things like problem-solving, study skills, anger management and making friends.

From helping to work out a friendship disagreement, to comforting a child with homesickness, to supporting a child whose family is having difficulties, Woodstock School's personal counsellors are available to work in a caring, confidential setting with your child.

# THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The core subjects in elementary school are English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These subjects, along with Religious Education, are taught by regular classroom teachers. The other subjects, including Hindi, Library Skills, Computer Skills, Music, Art and Physical Education are taught by specialists. The computer skills acquired in the Quad School computer lab are used in assignments given in other subjects. The core subject areas inform the computer classes, with an overall focus on developing the ethical use of information and communications technology together with literary skills. Students in Grade 2 and above have their own email accounts.



## **Art**

Art education develops visual perception, practical skills, and imagination. Techniques include drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, papier-mache, needlecraft, batik, and clay work.

## **English**

The English programme builds reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills. Through a strong literary base, students increase their vocabulary and comprehension skills and identify elements and techniques of writing and grammar. They learn to interpret literature through discussion, drama, composition, and reading aloud. Students are introduced to and expected to read a wide variety of books. They are also expected to keep building up their own writing anthologies.

## **Hindi**

The various courses develop fluency in oral and written Hindi. Hindi is taught at two levels in each grade—Hindi as a mother tongue and Hindi as a second language—to cater to the needs of individual students. Conversational Hindi is introduced and used in practical situations. In addition to a wide range of storybooks, the curriculum of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in New Delhi is followed, and NCERT textbooks are used. Students also explore Indian festivals, costumes, food, music, history, great leaders, monuments, religions, and lifestyles of India's diverse population.

## **Computer/Library Skills**

Students explore the world around them and become familiar with locating books and using print and electronic reference materials. Their teachers read to them both

in their classrooms and in the library, and students are encouraged to read, write book reviews, and give book talks. They participate in various library activities for academic achievement, higher levels of literacy, problem-solving, communication technology and research skills, writing skills, and lifelong learning, as organized by the teachers and Quad Library staff.

### **Mathematics**

The sequential mathematics curriculum is geared towards developing the students' capacity to move from concrete to abstract ways of conceptualizing mathematical ideas. The programme develops the children's skills, curiosity, and interest in numbers, measurement, money, logical thought, spatial sense, and estimation. Students are taught through activities and experiences that incorporate investigation, problem solving, cooperative group work, and the practical application of mathematics.

### **Music**

Western: lessons are offered in piano and orchestral strings from Grade 5. Please consult the school regarding availability.

Indian: lessons are offered in sitar, santoor, Indian classical guitar, tabla, harmonium and voice. Instruction for some Indian instruments begins in Grade 5, while other instruments are not available until Grade 6. Please consult the school regarding availability.

### **PERFORMING GROUPS**

#### **Beginner Strings**

This ensemble uses group instructional methods for beginner students interested in learning violin, viola, cello or double bass. The course includes fundamentals in strings technique and development of reading skills. Interested students are selected through auditions. This ensemble is open to students from Grade 3 onwards.



## **Junior Strings**

This string ensemble is a step above the Beginning Strings level. Students should be fairly well grounded in fundamental string technique in order to be successful with an easy repertoire for string ensembles. Students are eligible if they have shown sufficient achievement in the Beginner Strings, or through auditions.

## **Elementary School Choir**

This choir performs a variety of sacred and secular music of a level that provides excitement for the audience and performers. The Elementary School Choir is open to students from Grade 2 onwards.

## **Drum Circle/Recorder Ensemble/Orff Instrument Ensemble**

These group experiences go beyond the instruction offered in General Music and prepares the students further for involvement in Individual lessons at the middle school level, and provide interested students the opportunity to be more involved in music at Woodstock School.

## **General Music**

Elementary Music introduces the basic concepts of rhythm, melody and harmony, as well as various instruments and styles of music. Class work includes group singing, drama, and creating music with voice, percussion and other instruments. There are many opportunities for solo and group performance. General Music begins in

Grade 1 for all students, and is designed to prepare students for Instrumental Music in Middle School.

## ***Physical Education***

PE develops a positive self image in students by raising their fitness levels and improving their skills and attitudes. Students learn to participate safely and competently in a variety of sports. Fair play and leadership are emphasized. Basic skills for games such as football, volleyball, hockey, basketball, and badminton are introduced. Students have the opportunity to represent the school at interschool games and tournaments.



## ***Religious Education***

Awareness, knowledge, and understanding of key Christian teachings are the focus of Religious Education. Students are encouraged to relate the Bible to everyday life. In upper elementary grades, there is an introduction to the main beliefs and festivals of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.

## **Science**

Through the study of life, physical, and earth sciences, children in elementary school develop their knowledge and understanding of important scientific ideas, processes, and skills. They are encouraged to relate these to everyday experiences. Students learn about ways of thinking as they discover and communicate new ideas. They also explore values and attitudes through science.

## **Social Studies**

Social studies analyses the world's social and physical environment, covering topics such as social organization, geography, cultural identity, early civilizations, European and Asian history.

## **Outside The Classroom**

As a complement to the Elementary School curriculum, students engage in a wide range of local educational and/or service-oriented experiences. One such co-curricular programme is C.A.R.E. (Community Service and Restoration of the Environment). During the year, elementary school students may take field trips with their classes to visit local government-aided primary schools. These visits serve as opportunities to learn and share, combining service and experiential learning with events such as talent shows, sports, and games.

Elementary students enjoy a number of field trips throughout the year. Of these, the highlight is certainly Activity Week in late October, five days of field trips and new experiences that serve as a fun-filled extension of learning in the classroom.







### **For More Information**

Parents are strongly encouraged to visit the school with their children.

For an appointment or more information, please contact:

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