



# The Whole Learning School

## Annual School Events and Activities at TWLS

For the most current information, check our online calendar at <http://www.twls.org/events/>

### **Ongoing School Field Trips and Activities**

#### **Birthday Celebrations**

On the first Friday of every month, the kids and staff celebrate all the birthdays for that month. Birthday people are invited to bring treats to share with the school community. Parents and friends often attend to enjoy lunch and treats with their child.

#### **Field Trips:**

##### **Orchestra Hall**

(Two times/year) As part of the TWLS music therapy program, students attend performances at Orchestra Hall that enhance their knowledge and appreciation of music and give them ideas to explore their own leisure and recreation. Approximately four parent drivers/chaperones are needed to assist at each event. Drivers/Chaperones receive a free ticket to the performance. To volunteer to drive/chaperone, please contact Sue McCrary at [s.mccrary@twls.org](mailto:s.mccrary@twls.org).

##### **Stages Theatre**

(Three times/year) As part of our drama program with Stages Theatre, students attend performances at Stages to nurture their growth and development and appreciation of play and creative arts. Parent drivers and chaperones are needed to assist with this event. Approximately two parent drivers/chaperones are needed to assist at each event. Drivers/Chaperones receive a free ticket to the performance. To volunteer to drive/chaperone, please contact Sue McCrary at [s.mccrary@twls.org](mailto:s.mccrary@twls.org).

### **The Whole Learning School Events and Descriptions**

*Listed in order of occurrence*

#### **Ice Cream Social and Curriculum Overview**

(August) The ice cream social is the school year kickoff describing the logistics of the coming school year and an overview of TWLS's curriculum. This is also a chance to answer any questions parents might have about the upcoming school year, get to know each other and enjoy ice cream with the students. All family members are welcome to attend.

#### **School Garage Sale**

(Early September) Located in Hopkins/ Edina, the school garage sale is included in the Interlachen Neighborhood's garage sale. This important fundraiser typically raises \$2,000-\$3,000 for the PTFO and the school. Volunteers are needed for set-up the night before the sale and all day Saturday from 6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Student volunteers (and their parents) are needed to assist with selling popcorn and beverages to sale-goers. Proceeds from popcorn and beverages directly support something fun for the students. Volunteers and students should sign up for specific time slots with the PTFO.

#### **Back to School Celebration (sponsored by the TWLS Board of Directors)**

(September) This event is new to TWLS in 2010 and is aimed at helping families become more connected to the school and each other. In addition, the board will review important financial facts and inform new parents about what happens at the Possible Dreams Luncheon, our annual fundraising event held each April.

### **Possible Dreams Tours**

(Monthly) Please remember to invite family, friends, and professional contacts to our Possible Dreams Tours. These free, twice monthly tours are both informational and emotionally compelling and are an important part of connecting friends, donors and others with the importance of our program and in the ultimate success of our Possible Dreams Luncheon. Tours are used only to help others know us better; they are not used to ask people for donations.

### **Baker Near-Wilderness Overnight**

(October) An important TWLS tradition and team and community building event is our annual overnight trip to Baker Near Wilderness. Located within Barker Park Reserve, just 20 minutes from northwest of school, students explore the outdoors and connect with the community during an all school overnight. There are cabins, trails and nature classes in which students participate.

Students gather at school in the morning before carpooling to Baker in late morning. Once at Baker, they settle into camp, enjoy guided nature classes led by Baker naturalists and indulge in a community dinner with evening bonfire. The following morning, students have breakfast and another class with the naturalist before parent pickup at Baker around noon. Other accommodations can be made for students and/or families who need them. Closer to the event, students and parents will receive a detailed itinerary, gear list, map and permission slip.

Volunteers are needed for carpooling and chaperoning during the day and overnight (one-two adults per cabin) at the event. Parents are invited to join their child for dinner and campfire the evening of the event (a small fee applies for guests).

### **Scholastic Book Fair and Family Night**

#### **(sponsored by the Parent, Teacher and Friends Organization – PTFO)**

(October) Scholastic sets up a book fair at TWLS in the fall and all families are invited to come to the school to browse the books, place orders and have a potluck dinner. Based on how much is purchased at the fair, TWLS will get a certain percentage of the proceeds, as well as books for the school to use. Teachers will prepare wish lists so parents can donate books to the classrooms.

### **Family Appreciation Breakfast**

(Fall) Parents, students and other family members are invited from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. to enjoy a special breakfast prepared by TWLS staff. Students assist with serving cleanup. There is no need to bring anything...it's just one way we can say "Thank You!"

### **December Party (sponsored by the PTFO)**

(December) Right before holiday break, the PTFO puts on a bowling party for the students which takes place during the school day. Students practice their leisure and recreation skills by enjoying bowling, pizza lunch and snacks. Parent chaperones and volunteers are needed for this event.

### **December Showcase**

(December) The students perform a mid-year showcase (play) for families and friends during the school day, in the TWLS gym. A brief dramatic performance and other activities (such as bell choir, music or karate) are presented onstage followed by refreshments. This is a fun afternoon for the students to show off what they've been working on in drama class.

### **Possible Dreams Kick-off**

(January) This is an evening of fun and camaraderie for all our table hosts to get excited about filling their table for the luncheon. Typically held on a Friday or Saturday night, table hosts get tips and ideas for filling their table and get pumped up for the Possible Dreams Luncheon at this potluck event.

### **Valentine's Day**

(February) Students are encouraged to bring a Valentine for each classmate. Students should bring a small bag to transport their Valentines to and from school.

### **Special Person's Day**

(February) As a school we value the 40 developmental asset builders that add to quality of life for children. One of the external assets is an important adult in a child's life. For Special Persons' day, each child will invite a guest who is not a parent and give them an overview of their school day in 15-minute intervals. Guests experience yoga, reading, Dana computers and much more beginning at 10:00 a.m. and culminating at 12:30 p.m. After the morning program students are dismissed, but encouraged to have lunch and spend the rest of the afternoon with their special person.

### **Read Across America**

(March) "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child." Students celebrate reading and Dr. Seuss's birthday by wearing their pajamas to school and reading a favorite Dr. Seuss book in front of the whole school. Parents, grandparents and others are encouraged to come and take part by reading or listening to students read.

### **Possible Dreams Luncheon**

(Late April) Parents are expected to participate in our annual fundraiser, the Possible Dreams Luncheon, by hosting a table of ten. The event is just one hour and free to all to attend, but guests are asked to consider making a donation. Donations range from \$10 - \$10,000 per person.

At the event, Head of School Ann Rooney explains her goals for the school; parents share what TWLS means to them and a video is shown demonstrating how TWLS impacts children's lives. The students also prepare a presentation for the event. The luncheon is TWLS's biggest event of the year and strives to be an unforgettable and moving experience. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Possible Dreams Committee, which is responsible for planning the event and securing sponsorships.

### **Post-Luncheon Celebration Party**

(May) A celebration of the Possible Dreams Luncheon for table hosts and their families to get together for a casual afternoon or evening of potluck, drinks and table host prizes!

### **Spring Spectacular (sponsored by the PTFO)**

(May or June) The Spring Spectacular is TWLS's version of Prom. Current and former students ages 13-19 and one guest are invited for a wonderful evening including dinner, dancing and tons of great fun and memories. Volunteers are needed serve on the event planning committee. Contact the PTFO to volunteer.

### **Twins**

(May) As part of our life skills programming, students and families are invited to a Minnesota Twins game at Target Field for one of our leisure and recreation activities. From two-four parent drivers and chaperones are needed to assist with this event. Family members and friends are welcome to attend for an additional fee. An announcement asking for RSVP's will be sent closer to the event. Students should bring their own money if they wish to purchase lunch or souvenirs. GO TWINS!

### **Final Showcase**

(May) The students will perform their final showcase for families and friends in the TWLS gym. A brief dramatic performance (play) and other activities (such as bell choir, music or karate) are presented onstage followed by refreshments provided by the PTFO. This is a fun night for the students to show off what they've been working on in drama class.

### **Year-End Ceremony of Completion**

(June – the evening before school ends) All families are invited to come to the ceremony of completion for a wrap-up celebration of all the years' accomplishments. This is a gathering for all families and friends to watch the students perform and receive their certificates of completion. There is a ceremony on stage where students are awarded their certificates, and if graduating, their diplomas. This is also a chance to clean out lockers and say farewell before the last day of school.

### **Paddleboat (or another field trip)**

(June-Last day of school) All students and parents are invited to celebrate the end of the school year and get ready for summer with a paddleboat ride. This trip down the Mississippi River occurs the last day of school. Parent drivers and chaperones are needed to assist with this event. Guests are welcome for a small additional fee.