

PHONE NUMBERS

Office Number: 510-841-7248

Fax Number: 510-845-4609

SCHOOL HOURS

LG: 9:15am-2:30pm (supervised play time 8:45-9:15am)

LMG-UG: 8:45am-3:00pm

Early Dismissal: 1st school Wednesday of each month: 2:00pm

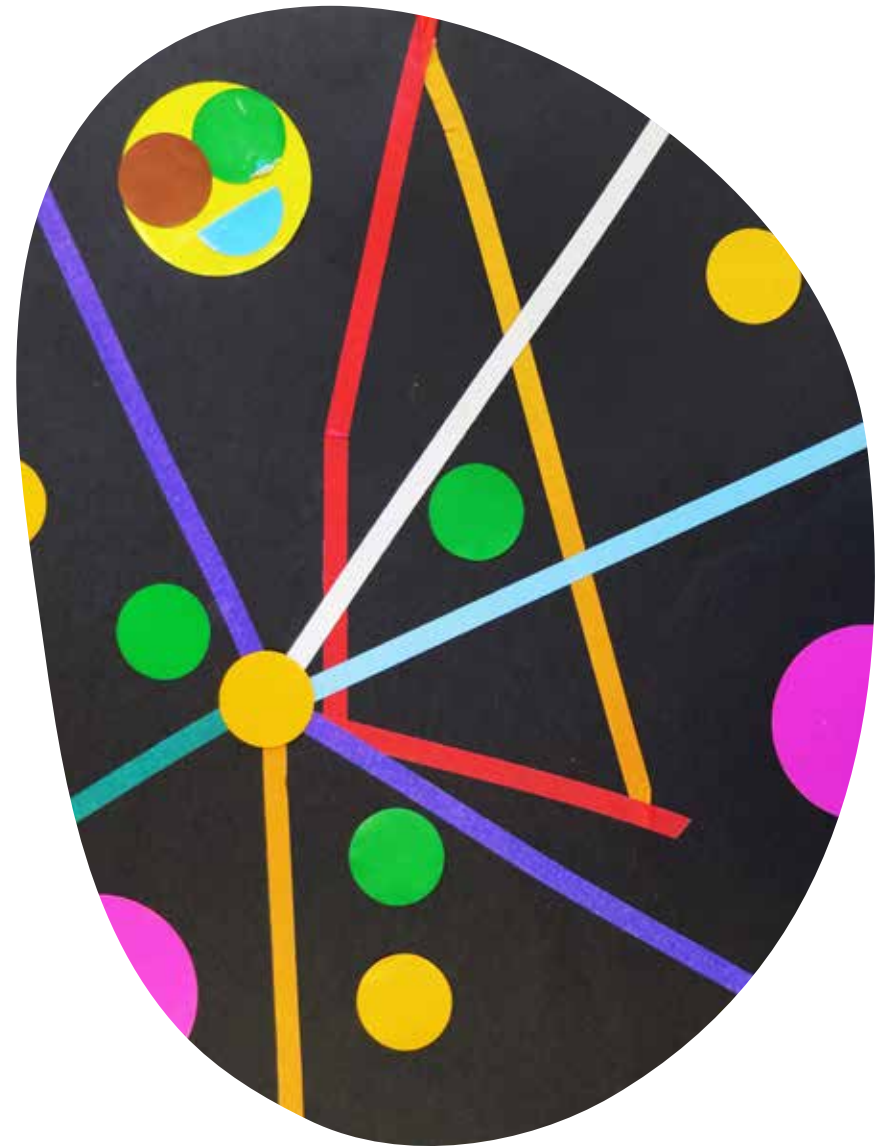
EDC Hours: 7:45-8:35am, 3:10-6:00pm
(see *Parent Handbook* for exceptions)

TAX ID NUMBER

94-1464735

QUESTIONS

Email vicki@walden-school.net.



2446 McKinley Avenue, Berkeley CA 94703
www.walden-school.net
Integrating Arts & Academics since 1958

The Walden Almanac



UG Camping Trip, 1969

WHAT'S THE WALDEN ALMANAC?

The Walden Almanac was developed as a reference guide for Walden parents to provide general information about the wonderful happenings at Walden. The guide includes regular events, definitions, structural information, and more. Walden has many cherished annual traditions, but we also create new and unique events based on current events and our students interests, so please note that some things may not be listed. This is a working living document, if you have an addition to the Walden Almanac, please send to the Collective.

The information found in the Parent Handbook takes precedence over this document. Please let the Collective know if you notice a discrepancy so that we can clarify for next year.

GRADES AND GROUPS (LG, LMG, MG, UG)

Children progress through four major class groupings that include overlapping ages and grades.

- **Lower Group (LG)**, kindergarten, is taught by one classroom teacher.
- **Lower Middle Group (LMG)**, grade 1, is taught by one classroom teacher.
- **Middle Group (MG)**, grades 2-3, is team-taught by two classroom teachers.
- **Upper Group (UG)**, grades 4-6, is team-taught by two classroom teachers.

AFRICAN DRUMMING 🥁

MG | UG

After school weekly instructional class for grades 3-6 and interested parents. Culminates in performance at Spring Fair.

ANNUAL GIVING 🥁 📄

A fundraising campaign which solicits donations from current and former members of the Walden Community, as well as other interested parties. Funds raised go toward tuition assistance so that more families can attend Walden.

Things to Know: All families are encouraged to donate at their comfort level.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL COFFEE ☕

Walden's Back-to-School Coffee is on the morning of the first full day of school. Drop your children off then catch up with other Walden parents!

When: First Thursday of the school year 8:45am

Where: Studio

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT 🧑

LG | LMG | MG | UG

At the beginning of the year, classroom teachers host an event to welcome parents to the new school year, and share information about curriculum, classroom norms, and upcoming events.

When: Sept-Oct

Things to Know: Usually hosted in the evening.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC 🥁 🧑

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Annual picnic to kick off the school year.

When: Friday of second week of school 4:00pm-dusk

Where: Tilden

Things to Know: Potluck items are generally divided by last name, but it's not strict. Bring your own table settings.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL WORK WEEKENDS 🥁 🧑

LG | LMG | MG | UG

The two weekends leading up to the start of the school year. Parents and teachers work side by side to get the campus ready for the school year. New parents meet their Walden community sometimes for the first time. We accomplish a lot while getting to know one another better.

Things to Know: Shifts are 4 hours: 9:00am-1:00pm, 1:00-5:00pm, one per parent. If you cannot make the work weekend, you can sign up for an independent project. Adults only. This is a requirement over and above your regular work commitment assignment.

BOOK WEEK 🥁 📄 🧑 🧑

LG | LMG | MG | UG

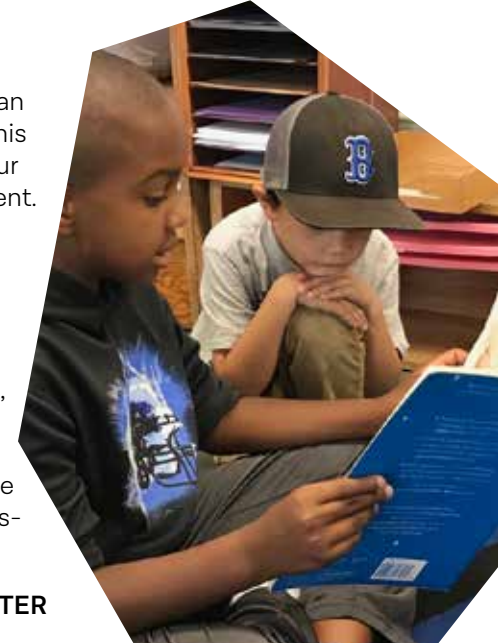
A week-long celebration of reading. We start with a kick-off assembly, authors/illustrators/storytellers visit, students participate in a read-a-thon, there is a literacy-themed workshop afternoon, and we end the week with a favorite-character dress-up and assembly.

BOOK WEEK: FAVORITE CHARACTER DAY 🥁 🧑 🧑

LG | LMG | MG | UG

On the final day of Book Week, kids may come to school dressed as their favorite character from a book. They will have the opportunity to show off their costumes at an all-school assembly.

Things to Know: As with all Walden dress up events, dressing up is optional. Many costumes are a simple representation or element of a book character, such as a sign or a prop. For example, a broomstick represents Harry Potter.



🥁 parent involvement
📄 possible cost

🧑 special clothes needed
⌚ atypical school hours

🧑 performance/presentation
🧑 parents welcome

BOOK WEEK: READ-A-THON 🗓️ LMG | MG | UG

Upper groupers pledge to read 10-12 hours through the week. Middle Groupers read about 6, and Lower Middle Groupers will try to read 3-4 hours. Reading periods are spread throughout each day. Students read to themselves, with partners, and as a group. Students may sign up family members and loved ones to sponsor their efforts to read during this time. People may sponsor per hour or a flat rate for the week. The sheets are due at the end of Book Week (or the following week) along with the money raised. These funds are used to help bring children's literature authors and speakers to school during book week, as well as to purchase new books for the school.

When: During class

Things to Know: Students may bring sleeping bags, pillows and stuffies to create comfortable reading areas for the week.

BOOK WEEK: WORKSHOP 🗓️

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Each teacher hosts a literacy-themed multi-age workshop. Kids might make a poetry book, design a bookmark, learn Chinese characters, or create a comic book. Kids may choose which workshop to attend.

Things to Know: Parents may volunteer to lead a book workshop. Parents may help support teachers during their workshops.

CAMPING TRIPS 🗓️ 🗺️ 🧥 ⌚ 👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Walden's curriculum includes experiencing and learning from nature at all grade levels. Camping trips are wonderful opportunities to build community and cultivate more environmental appreciation. Each class plans an overnight trip in the spring. The Upper Group has both fall and spring camping trips.

Where: TBD

Things to Know: Costs vary, so they are billed to families following each trip. Lower Group and Lower Middle Group trips are accompanied by parents. Middle Group parents attend if needed. Upper Group parents are generally not required to attend.

COLLECTIVE

The Collective is composed of the salaried teacher-administrators and non-teacher administrators, who jointly oversee curriculum, hiring and evaluation of staff, and day-to-day operation of the school. The Collective meets weekly and makes decisions by consensus.

COMMITTEES 🗓️

Walden has a variety of committees that work to enrich and support various segments of the school throughout the year. Each committee's strength relies upon the volunteer participation of the Walden parent community.

Things to Know: Committee Meetings take place throughout the year either after school (with complimentary EDC for attendees) or in the evenings (with childcare provided as needed). To join a committee, simply come to a meeting and participate!

COMMITTEE: DIVERSITY 🗓️

The Diversity Committee supports diversity, anti-bias, and inclusion in our community. The committee works to help engage our community in productive critical conversations, look at the needs of our community, and helps bring resources and opportunities to light.

COMMITTEE: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 🗓️

This committee keeps the school stocked with necessary items to support us in a disaster situation. They also review our disaster plan annually, and keep the staff informed of available training classes.

COMMITTEES: FINANCE 🗓️

Finance committee is composed of staff and parents with finance or business expertise to consult and approve financial decisions. This includes the review of financial aid decisions, as well as budget and finance review.

Things to Know: Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the information discussed, parent participation is by invite only.

COMMITTEE: FOUNDATION (SEE "FOUNDATION")

COMMITTEE: FUNDRAISING 🗓️

The Fundraising Committee is dedicated to finding new, innovative, and meaningful opportunities to build community while raising money within our smaller Walden parent community and from the Bay Area community at large (and beyond!). In addition, the Fundraising Committee researches and implements Walden's Easy Peasy Fundraising (passive Fundraising opportunities).

🗓️ parent involvement
🗺️ possible cost

🧥 special clothes needed
⌚ atypical school hours

🗣️ performance/presentation
👤 parents welcome

COMMITTEE: GREEN 🗳️

The Green Committee convenes every five years to facilitate the school's Green recertification. They can also meet more often if there is a community initiative or interest in pursuing an environmental project at Walden.

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL 🗳️

The Personnel Committee formally addresses and administers the personnel rules and policies of the school. The committee is made of two or more Collective members and a non-Collective Foundation member.

Things to Know: Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the information discussed, parent participation is by appointment by the Foundation and is only open to Foundation members.

COMMITTEE: WPA 🗳️

The Walden Parent Association (aka WPA) creates, adds to, and supports community events and celebrations at Walden and discusses the school's needs from a parent perspective. All ideas are welcome!

COMMUNITY FOLK DANCE 🗳️ 👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

An evening of participatory folk dancing for all ages, normally held in mid-November. Adults and children dance together. Harry prepares the children by teaching many of the dances in his music classes during the fall.

When: 6:30-8:00pm, usually the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Where: Studio

DAY AT THE LAKE 🗳️ 🕒 🧺

LMG | MG | UG

An annual year-end school event where students (LMG - UG) enjoy a day of swimming and relaxing.

When: Last Monday of the school year, 10:30am-3:00pm

Where: Lake Anza

Things to Know: Bring a snack and lunch. Bringing money to buy snacks at the concession stand is optional. We need parent drivers/chaperones in every group.



EARLY DISMISSAL ⌚

LG | LMG | MG | UG

The first Wednesday of every month is Early Dismissal. School ends at 2:00pm.

Things to Know: When the first Wednesday falls during a break, the following Wednesday is Early Dismissal.

EDC 🕒

EDC, Extended Day Care, is Walden's after school program. Please see the Parent Handbook for rates, hours, and other details about this program.

EDC: ALL-DAY 🕒 ⌚

On select days when Walden is closed for teacher conferences or vacation, EDC will be open for childcare. Check the *Walden Weekly Note* or electronic calendar for reminders about sign-up deadlines for these dates. See the Parent Handbook for more rules and details.

Things to Know: Your child may still attend All-Day EDC even if you haven't signed up by the deadline (i.e. "drop in"), however rates will be higher and space may be limited.

FAIRY WEEK

UG

A week designed for the Upper Group that promotes individuality and personal expression.

FIRST DAY OF LOWER GROUP 🗳️ 👤

LG

Lower Groupers attend school one day before the rest of the school. It is a special short day where they will get oriented to the campus and classroom procedures without other students on campus. Parents are welcome to join Walden's admissions coordinator and veteran parents for an off-campus coffee at a local shop once they have dropped their child off at school.

When: First Wednesday of the school year 9:00am-10:30am

🗳️ parent involvement
🕒 possible cost

🧺 special clothes needed
⌚ atypical school hours

👤 performance/presentation
🗳️ parents welcome

FLYING UP DAY

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Students will visit their next year's class to preview what it might be like and to discuss the topics they wish to learn for next year.

When: 11:00am-12:00pm

Where: Next year's classroom

Things to Know: 6th graders have Hooky Day where they will spend a day celebrating the end of the school year and saying goodbye.

FOUNDATION

The Foundation is the governing body of Walden Center & School. It is composed of teachers, current and alumni parents, and others who strongly support our mission. It oversees fiscal decisions, fundraising, long-term planning, and other issues of global importance to the school. Both the Foundation and the Collective set school policies. It is the goal of the Foundation and Collective to reach consensus on major decisions.

GALA 🎉 📅 👤

One of Walden's annual fundraisers, the Gala is an off-campus event for parents and community members. There's an auction, raffle, great cocktails as well as live entertainment.

Where: TBD

GALA: AUCTION AND RAFFLE 🎉 📅 👤

Every Walden family is required to procure and/or donate at least one item for the Gala Auction and Raffle. Auction items are typically made available via an online auction followed by a silent auction at the Gala. Raffle winners are picked at the Gala. Auction items typically include donations of services, playdates, and solicitations from local businesses.

Things to Know: Parents are asked to sell raffle tickets and solicit/contribute auction items prior to the Gala.

GLIDE MEMORIAL SERVICE LEARNING TRIP 🗺️

UG

Upper Group 6th graders take BART to San Francisco and volunteer for a shift feeding the food insecure at Glide Memorial Church.



GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY 🎉 🕒 👤 👤

Annual event and opportunity for invited friends or relatives of Walden students to visit the school and see what Walden is all about. Guests learn about the school, attend class with their students, and join together for a festive all-school sing-along assembly.

Things to Know: Because GPSF Day falls on the Friday before spring break, students and guests are dismissed at noon, and EDC is not available.

HALLOWEEN: PUMPKIN CARVING (SEE "PUMPKIN CARVING")

HALLOWEEN: SCHOOL PARADE AND FESTIVAL 🎉 🧥 🗺️ 👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Students put on their costumes at lunch time. There is an all-school Halloween assembly where students may announce their costume followed by a parade around the block. Children then return to school to participate in a Halloween festival where they may visit different stations throughout campus. Stations include crafts, games, and treats.

When: 1:00-2:30pm

Where: Studio, around the block

Things to Know: As with all Walden dress up events, dressing up is optional. Parent volunteers are encouraged to support transitions between activities, especially for younger children.



I HEART WALDEN 🗺️

LG | LMG | MG | UG

An annual celebration of our wonderful school community near Valentine's Day. Students receive a special snack and keepsake.

I HEART WALDEN: COFFEE 🎉 👤

Parents are invited to get together and enjoy a casual cup of coffee and to get to know each other and reconnect.

Where: Studio

Things to Know: School provides coffee and treats.

🎉 parent involvement
📅 possible cost

🧥 special clothes needed
🕒 atypical school hours

🗺️ performance/presentation
👤 parents welcome

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: END-OF-YEAR PICNIC 🍷👥

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Annual potluck to celebrate the end of the year.

When: After school on the last day of school. Usually from 4:00pm to dusk.

Where: Typically at Tilden Park

Things to Know: Potluck items are generally divided by last name, but it's not strict. Bring your own table settings.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: GOODBYE CEREMONY ⌚👥

LG | LMG | MG | UG

On the last day of school, kids, parents, teachers, and staff assemble to celebrate the end of the year. We start in the studio for a special assembly, and then move to the field for a circle dance and drum ceremony. Kids receive flowers and certificates. Each child sounds the drum to symbolize the completion of the school year.

When: 11:00am-12:00pm

Things to Know: School ends at noon. No EDC.

LOST AND FOUND 🗑️

The lost and found is in a free-standing closet next to the art room window, facing the Walden field. Items in the cabinet are set out 4 times per year for community members to reclaim.

After that, a parent donates the items to charity.

LUNAR NEW YEAR 🇨🇳👥

Each year the Middle Group performs and leads a celebration of Lunar New Year, featuring songs, dances, costumes, and instrumental music.

When: Early afternoon in February, prior to the President's Week break.



MIX-IT-UP LUNCH

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day is an international campaign designed by *Teaching Tolerance* that encourages students to identify, question, and cross social boundaries. Upper Group students, with assistance from Walden staff, lead their own mixed grade lunch time group in the studio.

MUSIC NIGHTS 🎵

LMG | MG | UG

Lower Middle Group, Middle Group, and Upper Group each perform a culminating evening spring concert, intended primarily for their own families.

When: Evening

Where: Studio

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS ⌚👥

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Conferences are scheduled twice per year in the fall and spring. Walden considers each child's education to be a unique journey. Within the context of individual development, teachers have expectations about each child's emotional, social, and academic progress. During parent/teacher conferences, your child's academic work, peer relationships, and ongoing social and emotional development are discussed.

PARENT/CHILD UKULELE NIGHT 🎸👥

MG | UG

An evening of sing-alongs and strum-alongs, primarily for older children and their parents. Harry teaches basic chords and strumming patterns, and loans baritone ukuleles and guitars for the evening. Younger children are welcome at parents' discretion.

When: Once or twice per year on a Friday evening, 7:00-8:30pm

PICTURE DAY 📷

LG | LMG | MG | UG

A professional photographer, typically a Walden Parent, takes individual, sibling, classroom, and buddy pictures of each student at Walden. Photos are published in the annual Yearbook and are made available for parents to purchase as a fundraiser for Walden.

Things to Know: Pictures are taken outdoors.

🍷 parent involvement
🏠 possible cost

👕 special clothes needed
⌚ atypical school hours

🇨🇳 performance/presentation
👥 parents welcome

PUMPKIN CARVING 🍷👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

An evening event, not on, but close to Halloween where families come together to carve pumpkins and participate in a community sing-along, dancing and entertainment.

Things to Know: Bring your own carving tools. Remember to clean up after carving your pumpkin. As with all after school events, parents are responsible for supervising their children.

ROOM PARENTS 🍷

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Each classroom needs one or two parents to volunteer to be a room parent. Room parents are asked to help coordinate parent participation and assist in communication amongst parents and faculty throughout the school year.

Things to Know: This is a volunteering opportunity!

ROUTES TO ROOTS 🍷🗣️👤

MG

An evening celebration hosted by the Middle Group biannually. Everyone at the school is invited to share elements of their family's identity and culture. Middle groupers write poems exploring their identities and all the places, memories, and traditions intrinsic to their family. Each student designs a memorable place and family moment—imaginary, idealized, or actual—in their art memory box. Walden families are invited to share their own roots in the form of food (potluck), artifacts (Heritage Exhibit) and entertainment (traditional/cultural performances).

SCIENCE WEEK

LG | LMG | MG | UG

An annual celebration of science! We kick it off with an assembly, we have science activities at lunch, we have an evening science night, a trip to clean up the Marina, an afternoon full of science workshops, and a dress up day!

SCIENCE WEEK: DRESS LIKE YOUR FAVORITE SCIENTIST 🍷👕🗣️👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Dress up as your favorite scientist or type of scientist. Dress-up days at Walden ignite the imagination, allow kids to be kids, and celebrate children's need to try on various characters as they develop their own. An assembly is held for students to talk about their costumes.

Where: Studio

Things to Know: As with all Walden dress up events, dressing up is optional. Many costumes are a simple representation or element of a favorite scientist or scientific field. For example, a stuffed animal could represent a zoologist.



SCIENCE WEEK: SCIENCE NIGHT 🍷🗣️👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

During science week, Walden holds an open house where student science projects are displayed. There is usually an entertaining presentation or workshop to attend. We have had presenters bring animals, strange electrical devices, and stations to get your hands dirty.

Things to Know: Some years we separate age groups for more targeted presentations.

SCIENCE WEEK: SCIENCE PROJECT 🍷

LMG | MG | UG

Starting in Lower Middle Group, students design and implement a science project for science week. Teachers offer varying degrees of support for choosing and designing a project depending on the child's need. The project and write-ups are completed at home with assistance.

Things to Know: At Walden, we emphasize process over product and we encourage students to highlight when things don't work out. As a result projects show a great deal of variety, but with two similarities: Kids love their topics, and they are proud of their work!

🍷 parent involvement
👤 possible cost

👕 special clothes needed
⌚ atypical school hours

🗣️ performance/presentation
👤 parents welcome

SCIENCE WEEK: SHORELINE CLEAN UP 🧻👕👤

LMG | MG | UG

Starting in Lower Middle Group, students visit the Berkeley Marina for a day picking up trash from a private beach and reporting our findings to researchers who use this data to affect policy.

When: 10:00am-12:00pm

Where: Berkeley Marina

Things to Know: Staff and parent chaperones lead small mixed-age groups of children. Remember to wear closed-toe shoes.

SNUNCH 👤

LG

A gathering for incoming Lower Group families to meet the Lower Group teacher and each other. It is a potluck snack/lunch. The Lower Group teacher organizes activities for the group.

When: Early August

Where: Usually off-campus

SOLANO STROLL 🧻

Walden has an interactive booth at this popular street festival to engage with prospective families.

When: 2nd Sunday in September, 10:00am-5:00pm

Where: Solano Avenue

Things to Know: Parents and teachers volunteer to help talk to interested parties, help children with an activity, and to meet up with alumni!



SPIRIT WEEK 👕

LG | LMG | MG | UG

An annual themed week that promotes school spirit! The goal is to support unity and differences within the school's community of children and adults by hosting inclusive activities. The week usually begins with a mixed-grade Getting To Know You, Mix it Up Lunch and continues with assemblies, games, activities, and themed days (such as Pajama Day, Favorite Color Day, etc.). Each themed day is created by discussion and vote by the Upper Group during leadership sessions. Themes are designed with community building in mind. The week culminates with our open house, the Winter Frolic, on the following Saturday.

SPIRIT WEEK: ASSEMBLY 👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

There are two assemblies which bookend Spirit Week. These are designed to help build community through song and cheer.

Where: Studio

Things to Know: The second assembly often includes a student talent show. Students interested in participating sign up the day of the talent show. Performances, some rehearsed, others completely spontaneous, range from song and dance, to comedy and magic, to simply talking about something the student enjoys.

SPRING FAIR 🧻🕒🗣️👤

LG | LMG | MG | UG

One of our major fundraisers and a tradition begun over forty years ago. Starting in January, committees are formed by the Spring Fair Coordinator to organize the fair. Each parent is required to donate a minimum of two hours work for the fair (before, during, or after). Activities include a book sale, a raffle, a multi-cultural luncheon, arts and crafts, baked goods, and a plant sale. It's a wonderful celebration of our community.

🧻 parent involvement
🕒 possible cost

👕 special clothes needed
🕒 atypical school hours

🗣️ performance/presentation
👤 parents welcome

SPRING FAIR: CAKEWALK 🎨

LG | LMG | MG | UG

During the Spring Fair, there is a cakewalk where children get to choose a small decorated cake after being selected during a group dance. Every child that participates, wins a cake. To participate, you should bring a cake to share and purchase a ticket. Some families bake extras so that guest families can participate as well.

Things to Know: Most families bake or buy cakes and let their children decorate them. Cake boxes are provided for transport home.



SPRING FAIR: CLASSROOM QUILT 🎨

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Each classroom creates a quilt to be raffled off at the Spring Fair. Quilt squares are created during school. Parents volunteer to assemble the quilt.

Things to Know: MG has two quilts; one for each homeroom. This is a volunteering opportunity!

SPRING FAIR: COMMUNITY QUILT 🎨

Walden community members volunteer to create quilt squares which are assembled for a Community Quilt every year.

Things to Know: This is a volunteering opportunity!

SPRING FAIR: DISH PREPARATION 🎨

LG | LMG | MG | UG

To raise funds for the school, we offer a potluck-style plate lunch for purchase during the Spring Fair. Food is provided by Walden families. Families are typically assigned a food category (lunch dish or baked good) based on the students last name.

SPRING FAIR: RAFFLE BASKET 🎨 🏠

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Thematic baskets are designed by each classroom to be raffled off during the Spring Fair. Room Parents help to coordinate the baskets, with participation and contributions from all classroom parents.

Things to Know: There is usually a theme for the classroom basket.

SUNDAY STREETS, BERKELEY

Walden has an interactive booth at this popular street festival to engage with prospective families.

When: Sunday in June, 11:00am-4:00pm

Where: Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley

Things to Know: Parents and teachers volunteer to help talk to interested parties, help children with an activity, and to meet up with alumni!

TEACHER WORK DAY ⌚

There is no school on teacher work days. These allow teachers to prepare conference notes, develop curriculum, and attend professional development.

When: TBD

Things to Know: Childcare is available on these days by signing up in advance with EDC.

TEMESCAL STREET FAIR

Walden has an interactive booth at this popular street festival to engage with prospective families.

When: Sunday in June, 12:00-6:00pm

Where: Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

Things to Know: Parents and teachers volunteer to help talk to interested parties, help children with an activity, and to meet up with alumni!

TRAINING FOR PARENTS 👤

Each year, there is a mandatory training to help generate common language and expectations regarding topics such as diversity, parenting, progressive communication styles, and the management of the school.

UG END OF YEAR: GRADUATION CEREMONY 🎓👕⌚🗣️👤

UG

A celebration of our graduating sixth graders. During the ceremony, graduates deliver prepared speeches and parents present Memory Books. After the ceremony, there is a reception in the Upper Group classrooms. Sixth-grade parents and families are encouraged to attend. All are welcome.

When: Last Wednesday of school year, 1:00-2:00pm

Where: Studio

Things to Know: Dressing up is optional for sixth-grade students.

Students will be practicing their graduation speeches at home and at school. Let Upper Group teachers know if you are interested in providing refreshments.

UG END OF THE YEAR: HOOKY DAY 🎓👤⌚

UG

A special outing planned by 6th grade families to coincide with Flying Up Day.

When: Last Thursday of school year

Things to Know: Families are in charge of planning the day.

UG END OF THE YEAR: LEAVING CEREMONY 🎓👕⌚🗣️👤

UG

Celebrate 4th and 5th grade students who are moving on to different schools. All Upper Group families are invited. Leaving Upper Group students' families (including siblings) are encouraged to attend. Parents of leaving children may present Memory Books to their child during the ceremony.

When: Last Wednesday of school year, 11:00am-12:00p

Where: Studio

Things to Know: Dressing up is optional for leaving Upper Group students.

UG END OF THE YEAR: MEMORY BOOKS 🎓👤👤

UG

Memory books are an optional gift that a family gives their child upon completion of their time at Walden. They are usually scrapbooks with a personal collection of mementos, photos and artifacts from throughout a child's time at Walden. The memory book is usually given by family members to their child at the Upper Group Leaving Ceremony or 6th Grade Graduation.

Things to Know: Parents put together Memory Books to be presented to students.

UPPER GROUP PLAY 🎓👤👤👤👤👤

UG

The Upper Group Play is an annual dance, drama and singing showcase. It is performed at an off-campus theatre by Walden's 4th - 6th graders on a weekend in June. There are usually 3-4 performances, sometime between Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The entire Walden Community is invited.

When: A weekend in June

Where: Off-campus

Things to Know: Ticket sales are announced in late April or early May. Tickets should be purchased in advance in order to ensure attendance.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 🎓👤

We encourage parents to participate in school events beyond required work commitment hours. Volunteer activities include acting as a room parent, chaperoning for field trips, organizing events, and fundraising.



WALDEN COMMUNITY

Walden Community is our online communication hub for current Walden families. Whole community information, classroom information, event calendars, forums, photos, profiles of parents and staff, and more can be found here. Members can also send messages through the site.

Things to Know: Walden Community is an open community where Walden's values of respect, inclusivity, creativity, and peace guide communication. It can be found at community.walden-school.net.

WALDEN WEEKLY NOTE

Our weekly e-newsletter contains calendar items, reminders, volunteer opportunities, other Walden business, photos, and community notices.

Things to Know: Submit items by Wednesday for inclusion in Friday's *Walden Weekly Note* to Vicki Edge at vicki@walden-school.net. A hard copy is posted on the office door each week.

WINTER FESTIVAL 🎉👥

LG | LMG | MG | UG

A fun afternoon to celebrate winter! Students choose workshops and walk around campus to make a craft, learn a game, and enjoy a winter treat. Usually hosted on the Friday afternoon before Winter Break.

Things to Know: Families are welcome to run a booth, or help kids with crafts!

WINTER FROLIC 🎉👥

LG | LMG | MG | UG

Food, fun, and craft activities for the whole family. Prospective preschool families are invited as well. Typically there is also a bouncy house, encore play performances by last year's UG class, and sometimes group dancing or live music. Current and alumni parents, students, and alumni are encouraged to attend.

Things to Know: Activities are free. Bring cash for food and beverages.

WORK COMMITMENT

There is a required Work Commitment for each family. The number of hours depend on the number of children the family has enrolled. These hours are in addition to Back-to-School Work Weekend (4 hrs) and Spring Fair (2 hrs). Some tasks are strictly volunteer and do not contribute to work commitment hours but do add to the educational experience of our children. For more details, please see the Parent Handbook.

Things to Know: Any unmet hours are billed at \$50/hour. There is a booklet which describes all the work commitment jobs. Sometimes additional opportunities to meet hours are posted on the *Walden Weekly Note*. For hours not noted in the above sources, please ask Walden staff if hours can be earned BEFORE beginning a task.

👥 parent involvement
💰 possible cost

👕 special clothes needed
⌚ atypical school hours

🎤 performance/presentation
👥 parents welcome