



Faces of Diversity

Woodstock School



How do we describe today's Woodstock students? We invited High School students to help us answer this question. Inside this brochure are just some of their responses.

March 2006

my identity

"My name is Clara and it means clear, bright, and illustrious. I am an American. I am 16 years old. I was born in Ecuador. Right now home is Midlands. When I say, 'I want to go home,' or 'I'm going home,' that's what I mean because that's where I'm going, and it feels comfortable and right to say it. I speak and dream in English and Spanish."

"My name is Farhin and it means proud and disobedient. I am an 18 year old Bangladeshi. I was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and that's where my family is. I speak Bengali, Hindi, and English."

"My name is Akari and it means candle light in the darkness (leads people to the right way). I am Japanese. I am 16 years old. I was born in Kagashima in Japan. Home is Japan right now, but it was also Thailand for a while. I speak English and Japanese and dream in the same languages. I have lived in 8 houses'.



"My name is Connor and it means strength and wisdom. I am an American. I am 18 years old. I was born in California, USA. Home is airplane hangars, on trains and in any moving vehicles; they're the only places I usually feel more comfortable than those around me. I have lived in at least 15 houses."

"My name is Ipsita and it means desire. I am an Indian. I am 15 years old. I was born in Kota, Rajasthan. Home is Bombay, because my father lives there, and I go there in vacations. I speak English, Hindi, German, and a little Japanese. I dream in English. "



"My name is Hyun Hwan. My name means that I appeared as if the flame came down on the earth. I am a South Korean. I am 15 years old. I was born in Seoul. I speak Korean and English. I dream in Hindi, Chinese, and Japanese."

"My name is Brian and it means Brave One. I am an American, born in the USA. Home is both India and America ...grew up in India and live here so it's home; I go back to America every summer so that's home as well. I speak Hindi, English, and Marathi. I have lived in 16 houses."

"My name is Kinley and it means 'bless all' and I am a Bhutanese. I am 17 years old. I was born in Thimphu-Bhutan. I speak English and Dzongkha. I dream in Dzongkha. "

"My name is Shema. It literally means 'hear', like listen. I am a Nepali born in Kathmandu. Home is everywhere. I speak and dream in Nepali and English. I have lived in 10 houses."



"My name is Yazeed. I am Maldivian. I am 13 years old. I was born in Sri Lanka. Home is Male because I grew up there. I speak Dhivehi and English. I dream in Indonesian."

"My name is Insuk. The meaning is a combination of Chinese character- 'In' means Tiger since I was born in the year of Tiger. I am Korean. I was born in Korea as I lived there for almost 15 years. I speak Korean and English. I dream in English when the setting is Woodstock, Korean when I dream about family and friends in Korea."

my family

"I am from Nepal where I was brought up in a bicultural environment with a Nepalese dad and an Indian mom, and raised in a Christian background. Ethnically, I'm half Gujarati Indian and half Nepalese. My father is supervisor of Methodist churches in Nepal." Keren

"I am from Bhutan. I follow Mahayana Buddhism. My father is the Director-General for the Department of Energy and my mother is the Director for the Department of Revenue and Customs." Kinley

"I am from Japan. My parents are Christian, although because my grandparents are Buddhists I learnt different ways of looking at things, and I am still struggling to decide my own religion. My mother is a Japanese teacher and translator (English to Japanese) and my father takes care of the copyright of cartoon characters." Akari



"I am from Bangkok. I follow Buddhism. My dad is the In-Flight Manager for Thai Airways and my mom is a housewife." Soparok

"I am from Chicago. I am culturally a North Indian- Punjab and UP and American-Norwegian /Scot/German. My parents have a variety of occupations including counselor / housewife/ entrepreneur /elementary school teacher/." Tiina

"I am from Aizawal, NE India. I am a protestant Mizo Christian. My parents are in business." Lalmuankima



"I am from Bombay. I come from a Hindu, Muslim family. I am $\frac{1}{4}$ each Gujarati, Bengali, Assamese and Oriya. My father works for a commercial shipping line, my mom is a housewife." Priya

"I am from America. My culture is Hispanic and Christian. My papi is a pastor, outreach worker, and a mental health counselor; my mami is a language teacher, but she does a lot of other things too, like secretarial and outreach work. " Clara

"I am from Delhi. I follow the Sikh religion and Punjabi cultural heritage. My mother is Christian and is from Uttar Pradesh. My father is a computer software engineer and a consultant and mother is an executive in a social organization." Amrita

"I am from Bhutan. My dad's families are all Hindus and my mom's families are all Christians. My mom works in UNICEF in the supply section. My dad is the national football coach of Bhutan." Benjamin

"I am from Delhi. I am culturally a Tibetan and Buddhist and my parents own a small home textile factory." Kalsang



"I am from Bangladesh. I am a Muslim and my culture is that of Dhaka. My Father is a urologist and my mother works in the American Embassy." Shabab

"I am from Mussoorie. Culturally, I am a bit confused! I was born in America, moved to England and have been in Mussoorie for almost 8 years. Ethnically, I am Caucasian, from a Protestant Christian background, and have made the decision to become a disciple of Christ. My Dad is a pediatrician at the local hospital, and my mom is a housewife and volunteer English teacher." Anne

my dreams

"When I grow up I want to be a lawyer or a psychiatrist so I can be a voice of truth in the world. The world is full of people I would like to meet, because if you don't meet anyone you won't know the difference between them and you. What about the people who no one cares about or knows?" Thinlay

"I would enjoy a job that required creative initiative with no management or stilted set 'systems' and 'policies' involved. I would like much traveling and writing to be required of my occupation. I would like to meet Philip K Dick, because his work intrigues me and I would like to befriend someone who subscribes to a totally different version of reality from the majority of earth's six billion inhabitants." Connor

"Although I am dreaming of becoming a missionary worker, I think I should earn money in advance that is going to be used in mission trips instead of getting sponsored by many churches.

The conflict between becoming a doctor and becoming an engineer often bothers me.."
Hyun Hwan



"I imagine becoming a teacher or a midwife after college. I want to return to both India and Ghana to do development work." Nora

"I want to be either a mechanic or a car company executive. I want to meet god because I'd want to ask him some questions." Chris



"I love anything that's got to do with sports. I like meeting new people and listening to their opinions and various subjects. I am really interested in art but I am not good at it." Neeti

"After college, I want to become a children's author and illustrate my own books. I want to serve God in any way I can. If I could meet anyone, I think I would bring Van Gogh back from the dead, and sit down with him and watch him paint one of his gorgeous golden suns! That would be amazing - I love his artwork. " Annie

"I want a career in either science (non-medical) or journalism. I would love to meet Guru Gobind Singh, a teacher and prophet in my religion's history whom I admire above all people." Amrita

"My main interests lie in reason and thought so that is why I'd like to specialize in the field of psychiatry and in Byzantine History. I would like to meet Ms. Low, my previous math teacher, the one who made math sound truly logical. I haven't seen her for the past 6 years." Shema



"I like playing a lot of sports, my favorite is Soccer. I want to grow up to become an animator or a graphic designer. I would like to meet Bill Gates. He became something out of nothing and he did it all on his own." Mikhail

"My feet stamp harder and faster till the bells around my ankles sound like wind chimes in a hail storm. I turn and breathe in 'Bharat'. I breathe out red, blue and white stars. I breathe out curry, rice, monkeys, Himalayas, rickshaws and crowded streets of strong smells. I breathe in stoplights, highways, monster-sized fast food meals and baseball in the park, lights at Christmas instead of 'Diwali'. I am not India. I am not America." Tiina

Faces of Diversity

Woodstock School students are individuals. Each brings a distinctive background, culture, tradition and religious heritage.

In 2005-2006, Woodstock students represented twenty-three different nationalities, but many more countries of residence. South Koreans live in Nepal, Nepalese live in India, Indians live in the USA, Americans live in Afghanistan. Even within India, we have residents of 25 different states.

Many students also come from mixed heritages, have globally mobile parents and have lived in many homes.

70 students (17%) are in receipt of financial aid. 51 (12%) are children of staff members.



WOODSTOCK SCHOOL
EDUCATION FOR A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE
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Residence and Nationality		
Country	Residents	Nationals
Afghanistan	2	
Australia	1	2
Bangladesh	3	3
Bhutan	26	25
Cambodia	2	
Canada		10
Egypt	2	
Eritrea	2	2
Finland		3
Germany	7	8
Hong Kong	1	
India	276	216
Ireland		1
Italy	1	
Japan	10	16
Myanmar		2
Nepal	50	53
New Zealand	1	3
Nigeria	1	
Russia	1	1
Saudi Arabia	3	
Singapore	1	
South Africa		3
South Korea	43	49
Switzerland	1	2
Taiwan ROC	1	1
Thailand	9	7
Tibet		3
United	3	7
United States	19	50
Vietnam	4	5
Yemen	2	
Religious Diversity		
Christian		207
Hindu		141
Buddhist		72
Sikh		12
Muslim		10
Jain		4
Jewish		1
Zoroastrian		1
None stated		24