

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Location: Walker School

Attendees:

Nicki Devine	Terry Velan	Henry Wilkins	Jenna Arceneaux
Paula Maldonado	Darlana Simmons	Michelle Henley	
Ellen Nagella	Irene Wu	Dee Johnson	
Erin Saculti	Inbal Fraiman	Michaela Marchi	

Principal's Announcements

- Happy New Year!
- We are now in a new phase - really looking for parent feedback on school culture and climate.
 - We have 2 surveys going out
 - One is the 5 Essentials Survey by the state (<https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>). Please take it. We haven't had the greatest participation in the past. The deadline to take it is Feb. 15th. We will be encouraging parents to take it during conferences.
 - Our Parent Advisory Team is developing the second survey that will be Walker specific. This one will roll out the night of World of Walker (late February).
- We're excited for the MLK Service Project next week. We will be promoting it during morning announcements and in the classrooms.
- This month's PBIS is focusing on our lunchroom procedures and expectations for students and staff.
- We are still focused on safety. I've reached out to the Skokie Village Manager and will be having a meeting to see if we can get the following things done:
 - More police involvement in traffic safety during drop-off & pick-up
 - Make Central St. a one way during drop-off & pick-up
 - Moving our crosswalk back
- We will be looking to focus on pick-up next

Parent Questions/Comments: None

Teacher Announcements:

- One request, the teacher lounge microwave died and we need a new one or if someone has an old one they don't need we'd gladly take it.
 - We will put a blast on Facebook asking
 - Terry might have one, he will check

Executive Committee Announcements

- 5Essentials Survey: Please take this survey! It is really important! Link: <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>
- Green Team: We want to start an environmental group for our school (we're one of the last schools in the district to have one).
 - We need a leader, we'll offer it to the staff in case someone is interested
 - All the Green Teams meet together, so there will be lots of support
 - We can totally start off small
 - We did just get a new water fountain that includes a water bottle refill spot installed on the first floor.

Service Drive:

- Thank you for all that you've donated so far!
- Kids can focus on one category or all, or even just bring in one item. It's up to them
- On Friday Jan. 18th at 3:35-4:30 we will be making the kits in the gym. All are welcome to join! (if they need more room, Ms. Arceneaux has volunteered her room.
- They made a great connection with the kids on the Student Advisory Committee about the project - got them really excited.
- We will send another communication about the kit making event this Friday

- We will add it to the morning announcements (for the donations and the kit making event)

Treasurer Update

- Doing good now
- The back end of the year is full of expenses, that's why we have a large amount of money now - we will be paying bills later in the year
- Parent's Night Out is the biggest night of the year for us (fundraising wise).
 - We're budgeted to make \$12,000. If we hit \$10,00 we will be short, if we hit \$11,000 we will break even, but if we make more than \$11,000 than we will have a surplus.
 - We are working on making a smoother checkout procedure to try to make it go faster

Art Residencies Update:

- The 2nd grade team has decided to go with the theme of mindfulness of the world around us and ourselves. The kids will develop stories and express them through Indian dance - a way for them to utilize their wiggleness.
- 5th grade is still deciding on their project

New Business

- Starting a Community Service Club:
 - This will be a new club for students
 - 10 weeks, doing service projects for our community (like packing lunches for firefighters)
 - Starting this spring, will be in the morning (8-8:50am), for grades 2nd-5th and the cost per student is \$110 (it might be lower in the future if we can get supplies donated - the cost will go to pay for the supplies for the projects). Will look into if the cost for parents could be a tax right off since going to projects of donation. Next year we will try to do a donation drive for the supplies.
 - It will be parent run
- At the recent District 65 Board Meeting there were 35 committee members that are trying to make D65 an Anti-Racist District
- Who's cage do we rattle to fix our gym floor? It's very slippery and a safety hazard
 - It was supposed to be fixed over the summer, but the district didn't get to it. Then it was supposed to be done over break, but didn't.
 - District's Building and Maintenance is who to contact.
 - There's a lot of other schools in the district with better upgrades - better gyms, better playgrounds - seems to get done when parents make a lot of noise
 - Put these types of comments/concerns in the Chatterbox and the committee will figure out a plan of action.
 - Sometimes it's all about awareness - go visit other schools in the District and see the difference
 - Some schools have received new build-ons
 - Something to keep in mind with these types of requests is we should look at both sides of the coin/the pluses and minuses that the project can bring. Like if we got an addition to our school, yes it would solve space issues, but we would grow in student numbers and possibly lose our small class sizes. Just need to consider everything first. How do we walk the line of getting our school's needs met but not lose the things we love about our school.

Volunteer Needs

- PTA Service Drive Project, week of Jan 14th
- Walker ESSCA Serve Day: Wednesday Jan. 16 @ 6:30-9:00pm
- PTA Winter Dance: Saturday Jan. 26 @6-8pm
 - Ask teachers to promote in class to help reach everyone. Scholarships are available to Walker students
- Parent's Night Out: Saturday Feb. 9th
 - Flyers will go out this Friday
- Green Team Leader

Important Dates

- Kindergarten LEAP Event: Sunday Jan. 13 @ 1-2pm at Evanston Public Library
- PTA Service Drive Project, week of Jan 14th
- PTA Council Meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 15 @ 7pm, Dewey School, topic School Supplies Programs
- Early Dismissal: Wednesday Jan. 16 @ 12:05pm
- Next Steps Event: MYTHBUSTERS Understanding the complex story that D65 data tells: Jan. 15, 6:30-8:30pm
Nichols School library
 - There will be 3 more sessions - one in Feb. March & April
- Walker ESSCA Serve Day: Wednesday Jan. 16 @ 6:30-9:00pm
- No School (MLK Day): Monday, Jan. 21
- Parent Coffee with Ms. Lumpkin: Friday Jan. 25 @ 9:00am
- PTA Winter Dance: Saturday Jan. 26 @6-8pm
- Dental Clinic: Wednesday Jan. 30
- Parent's Night Out: Saturday Feb. 9th

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Wednesday, February 20th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria