

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 @ 7:00pm  
Location: Zoom Call

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89465443563?pwd=T2hvVzNxQTI2czVXSctQdmdnQWpVdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 6544 3563 PW: walkerpta

Attendees:

James Gray	Patty Harris	Raechel Alexander
Amber Bond	Michelle Redmond-Henley	Daniel Achina
Carla Green	Tara Williams	Rebekah Stockwell
Darlena Simmons	Sarah Trulley	Stacey Masliansky
Ashanti Madlock-Henderson	Paul Ribeiro	Allison Ackerman Bull
Liz Ribeiro	Erin Sacluti	Courtney Shapiro
Natalie Gillespie	Michaela Marchi	Inbal Fraiman
Mya Wilkins	Kelli Kaul	

### Principal's Announcements

- Thank you to PTA Leadership!
- As Dr. Horton's email said, hybrid learning is coming. All teachers and staff should receive first vaccine before in person starts 2/16.
- Remote and in-person students will receive same number of instructional minutes.
- All requests to change from in-person to remote will be granted. Please email James Gray.
- Classes are maximum 15-16 people including educators.
- Block 1 will be 2 hours, 20 minutes whether in-person or remote for SEL (20 minutes), ELA-English/Language Arts (1 hour), and Math (1 hour).
- Block 2 will be 2 hours, 40 minutes for non-core Math, ELA, SEL. 30 minutes Math. 60 minutes for PE/Fine Arts. 30 minutes Science/Social Studies for K-2, 40 minutes Science/Social Studies for grades 3-5. 30 minutes ELA/SLA for grades 3-5, 40 minutes ELA/SLA for K-2.
- Goal is to minimize teacher changes.
- Secondary goal is to maintain class sizes similar to what you're experiencing now.
- All teachers in K, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be coming back in person. They will teach all their in-person students for part of the day and remote students for part of the day.
- Two teachers in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> will be in person, one will stay remote. They have circumstances that have been approved by the district. Some students in these grades will have to change teachers.
- AM or PM assignments shared in December may have changed per request or necessity.
- Every student will find out their teacher going forward 1/28.
- Week of 2/8 is virtual parent teacher conferences.
- 2/9 will be a regular school day; 2/10 and 2/11 is no instruction for students for remote/blended learning planning day for teachers and staff. 2/12 and 2/15 were already scheduled as days off.
- Principal Chat tomorrow night (7 pm, Mr. Gray will send a link in an email to parents) will be more in-depth on this topic. Email Allison Ackerman Bull at [alliackerman@hotmail.com](mailto:alliackerman@hotmail.com) with any questions ahead of time.
- 1/28 is a district led town hall about hybrid learning.

- Weeks of 2/1 and 2/8 James Gray will have multiple Walker only town halls, maybe Tuesday-Thursday at 7 pm.

## Teacher Announcements

### Executive Committee Announcements

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service Project collection
  - Collected 110 kits with hygiene items.
  - In the past, we have collected supplies on a Friday and had families involved in sorting items to create kits before delivering to Connections for the Homeless.
  - Thank you to Erin Scaluti for delivering the kits this year.
- PTA Council update
  - Each school discussed their plans for Black Lives Matter week.
- Black Lives Matter week
  - Scheduled for February 1-5.
  - Last year Walker had parents of color read the same book at the same time to all classes.
  - This year we asked 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Ms. Jenevieve Arceneaux to record herself reading a book. That will be played on Monday after announcements, so all children should hear an important book at the same time.
  - Also we will have Black Lives Matter signs available to print or drop off for students to color and post in their window at home.
- Fifth grade farewell ideas (email ideas to Stacey Masliansky at [staceymasliansky@gmail.com](mailto:staceymasliansky@gmail.com))
  - Traditionally fourth graders have helped with the fifth-grade farewell, so parents of fourth and fifth graders may have ideas to share.
- International Night
  - Did not get to hold this event last spring.
  - We want to do something in the second half of the year.
  - Cecilie Ryan ([ceciliebroch@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliebroch@gmail.com)) is looking for people to help with maybe a cookbook or other ideas.
- STEAM Night
  - Committee is trying to do something virtual like a science experiment that kids watch or follow along with take home kits.
  - Matthew Krause ([krause218@hotmail.com](mailto:krause218@hotmail.com)) is the current chair and would like any help hosting or ideas.
- Boxes of Stories update
  - Still looking for book donations.
  - Feel free to visit these sites to refresh your kid's at home library.
  - Link to map of locations: <https://tinyurl.com/D65BoxCajitas>
  - Walker Locations:
    - 8819 Ewing Ave, Evanston 60203
    - 8947 Lincolnwood Dr, Evanston 60203
    - 9440 Lincolnwood Dr, Evanston 60203
    - 1004 Pitner Ave, Evanston 60202
    - 8641 Hamlin Ave, Skokie 60076

### Treasurer Update

- Minimal activity this past month with income (spirit wear purchase) and expenses (website hosting fee).
- \$3,804.89 bank balance at end of year.
- Received two checks: \$318.97 from Village Inn dinner fundraiser and \$285.93 from the book fair. Expect to receive \$360 from Wendy's dinner fundraiser.
- If anyone else wants to join audit committee, looking for one more person.

### Equity Committee Update

- FAN Events (Anita Geevarghese): <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/> (free and open to all, registration required)
  - Next event tomorrow night. Marcus Campbell will interview Angie Thomas, who wrote "The Hate U Give." Can still register.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson, Sarita Smith)
  - PEP meeting was rescheduled for tomorrow.
  - Meeting specifically for BIPOC members to discuss issues parents were having with PEP was helpful.
  - Ashanti is on the Fund Management sub-committee. Sarita is on the Racial Impact Equity Assessment sub-committee.
- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Anita Geevarghese)
  - Free tutoring for BSA students from ETHS students. Website for more info: [studentsagainsttheachievementgap.org](http://studentsagainsttheachievementgap.org)
  - Tutor request form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfld6osOI1dBDdA9n8eNFmft0IMIFT8HaomPMjgx70r3Lvggg/viewform>
  - Sending survey to members to see what they are interested in beyond current focus of improved reading outcomes.
- Walker Walking the Walk (Kelli Kaul/Carrie Shonk)
  - In October we did a free 2-hour workshop led by Alecia Wartowski and a colleague of color.
  - Intimate group that discussed how to make a better Walker.
  - We talk a lot in this community about being anti-racist and we want to take it a step further to do more to help our friends and neighbors who have been in pain. We want to do the work to take it to the next level.
  - Alecia put us in touch with the Praxis Group. Because of their relationship and Michele Lakemeyer used to live in Evanston, they offered us a great deal.
  - At this time, we have one spot available for a two-hour, eight-week group on Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 starting 2/2 and ending 3/23. Contact Kelli Kaul ([kellikaul@gmail.com](mailto:kellikaul@gmail.com)) if you are white-identifying and interested.
  - This is just one step and we'll keep doing more to push the objective forward.
- Next Group (Anita Geevarghese)

### Fundraising Committee Update

- Benefit Holiday Fundraiser
  - Extending holiday fundraiser on Benefit since they send checks monthly.
  - Sign up for Benefit, or if you already did, select the Walker Fundraiser campaign to keep raising funds (<https://www.benefit-mobile.com/causes/walker-elementary-school>).
  - Thank you to the top family that participated as number 1 donor-Allison Bull!

- Valentine's Day fundraiser being considered with Edible Arrangements or Nothing Bundt Cake.
- Will continue with Box Tops for Education and Amazon Smile fundraisers.
- Village Inn Pizzeria (raised \$318.97) and Grecian Kitchen (earned \$140) results
  - February restaurant day is 2/17 at Culver's on Skokie Blvd any time of the day, drive thru or walk in.

### **Engagement Committee Update**

- Lunch bunches
  - Third week of lunch bunches.
  - Wonderful group of five room parents have taken on lunch bunches to offer them to the whole school. (Anna Kate Anderson-K, Yolanda Kim-1st, Sarah Trulley-2<sup>nd</sup>, Courtney Shapiro-3rd, Michelle Henley-4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)
  - Varied success each day of the week. Anywhere from 15-30 students at one time.
  - Among Us is the most popular game requested, followed up with Uno and Pictionary. Some groups also just want to chat among themselves.
  - Even when we return to hybrid instruction, there will be a need for students to chat socially with one another.
  - We desperately need 5<sup>th</sup> grade help. Michelle Henley is the only one leading the whole grade at this point. She needs support and help. The grade is pretty easy to monitor.

### **Volunteer Needs:**

- Lunch Bunch monitors, especially 5<sup>th</sup> grade (contact Raechel Alexander at [raechel.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:raechel.alexander@gmail.com))
- International Night committee (contact Cecilie Broch at [ceciliebroch@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliebroch@gmail.com))
- STEAM Night committee (contact Matthew Krause at [krause218@hotmail.com](mailto:krause218@hotmail.com))
- Junior High Science Kit Assembly & Distribution (volunteers needed 1/21-1/25; SignUp Genius Link: [http://D65 Middle School Families SCIENCE SUPPLY KIT ASSEMBLY \(Dup\)](http://D65 Middle School Families SCIENCE SUPPLY KIT ASSEMBLY (Dup))); contact Diana Sheehan at [nddiana@yahoo.com](mailto:nddiana@yahoo.com) with questions)

### **Important Dates:**

- January 21st, 7 pm: Chat with the Principal
- January 21st, 7-8 pm: FAN Event "Concrete Rose: A Conversation with Angie Thomas"
- February 1-5th: Black Lives Matter week
- February 4th, 7 pm: Chat with the Principal
- February 8-11th: Parent Teacher Conferences
- February 10-12th: No School, Teacher and Staff Remote/Blended Learning Planning Days
- February 16th: No School, Presidents' Day
- February 17th, 7 pm: PTA Meeting

Adjournment