

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 @ 7:00pm
Location: Zoom Call

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89465443563?pwd=T2hvVzNxQTl2czVXSctQdmdnQWpVdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 6544 3563 PW: walkerpta

Attendees:

Stacey Masliansky	Anita Geervarghese	Will Hobart
Allison Bull	Kathy Ryan	Patty Vertiz-Harris
Ashanti Henderson	Kymika Okechukwu	Natalie Gillespie
Darlena Simmons	Carrie Shonk	Henry Wilkins
Erin Scaluti	Dee Johnson	James Gray
Sarah Trulley	Cecilie Ryan	Michelle Redmond-Henley
Raechel Alexander		

Last month's PTA meeting minutes were approved.

Principal's Announcements

- Your long nightmare is over! Hybrid schooling starts tomorrow.
- If your children are in person, congratulations!
- Check tonight to make sure your child's device is plugged in. It's ok if they come to school without a charged device, but it is helpful.
- District is aware of Crisis Go issues with some parents not receiving emails. There is an issue with the data schools and the district have provided syncing to the app. Email Mr. Gray if you are not receiving the emails for every student attending in person to confirm they are fever and symptom free.
- Plowing around Skokie and sidewalk clearing has not been great. Give yourself extra time to get to school tomorrow.
- Science and social studies assignments are not given by the teachers, they are assigned by the district. There is a zoom hotline for students to use if they need help with these subjects.

Teacher Announcements

Executive Committee Announcements

- Thank you to Ashanti-Madlock Henderson and Brandis Friedman for an incredible lineup of speakers for every class during Black History Month. The students have been so excited leading up to and during the presentations.
 - Dr. Smith, one of the presenters, of Smile Sweet at Main and Dempster is offering 20% off to all Walker families for services.
- New and continued Spirit Wear (hoodies, zip ups, flannel pants, masks, water bottles, yard signs) are available for purchase on the website through 3/1. Orders should be available for delivery 3/15. (shop at <https://bluesky.commonsku.com/shop/fbee75d0-9b8a-4e0f-9545-a62f5f68ee93>)
- PTA Council Update: Sharing ideas between schools; Ideas for how to partner with Northwestern University as a district.
- STEAM Night: Looking to do something outside and via zoom in spring.

- We are looking to do another book fair in person outside in May. It is usually a fundraiser and we are hoping to raise more using Scholastic this time.
- In lieu of international Night, we are going to do a cookbook. Cecilie Ryan is heading up the effort.
 - This is her first time doing this and she thinks she has found a website to help create it. The website is www.createmycookbook.com.
 - People can receive the link to add recipes through Facebook, email, or another format. The recipes can be edited and categorized (appetizers, entrees, dessert or by nationality) toward the end.
 - Bulk purchase order is \$4.50-\$5.50 per copy, we could sell for \$15 or \$20 as a fundraiser with free copies available as needed.
 - Cecilie is looking for tech help and anyone who has ideas on how to simplify the project. Contact her at ceciliebroch@gmail.com.
 - Suggestion to utilize room parents and teachers to spread the word and streamline submissions so no one has to manually enter dozens of recipes.
 - Exec committee will check out the website and work with Cecilie and committee to launch and advertise the cookbook effort next week.

Treasurer Update

- Received book fair and Benefit funds.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Thank you to everyone who supported us with Nothing Bundt Cakes. We have not received the final number yet.
- Benefit rep is joining us for a 10-minute presentation at March meeting.
 - On Benefit app, please change fundraiser from holiday to Walker Fundraiser. (<https://www.benefit-mobile.com/causes/walker-elementary-school>)
- NEW DATE! Culver's Restaurant Night fundraiser was changed to Wednesday, 2/24 5-8 pm drive thru or walk in. Have to mention Walker when ordering, not paying. (Michelle and Ken Mantel)
- Grecian Kitchen Restaurant Night brought in \$140.
- For our big fundraiser this year, we are looking to do a direct appeal and dinner zoom hybrid in lieu of Parents' Night Out.
 - We are looking at April 9th.
 - We are working out some logistics and will share details soon.
 - We are trying to be conscious of religious holidays for those who wish to be social if food is involved.

Equity Committee Update

- FAN Events (Anita Geevarghese): <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/> (free and open to all, registration required)
 - February 18th, 7-8 pm: "The Connected Parent: An Expert Guide to Parenting in a Digital World" with John Palfrey, President of the MacArthur Foundation, and Nichole Pinkard, PhD., Associate Professor in the School of Education and Social Policy at NU and Faculty Director of the Office of Community Education Partnerships.
 - February 25th, 7-8 pm: "How to Not Die Alone: The Surprising Science That Will Help You Find Love" with Logan Ury, Author and Director of Relationship Science at Hinge, and Eli Finkel, PhD., Professor of Psychology and of Management and Organizations, Kellogg School of Management, NU.

- March 1st, 7-8 pm: “What Matters Now: Emotional Balance and Core Needs in the Post-Pandemic Era” with Nancy Burgoyne, PhD, Chief Clinical Officer, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, and Maru Torres-Gregory, JD, PhD, LMFT, Faculty, Marriage and Family Therapy Program, The Family Institute at NU.
 - During Covid, all FAN events are available on its YouTube channel.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson, Sarita Smith)
 - PEP meeting tomorrow. Ashanti is on the fund management team. Sarita is on the team to create a screening tool to evaluate how well distributions are working toward equity goals.
- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Anita Geevarghese)
 - Free tutoring for BSA students from ETHS students. Website for more info: studentsagainsttheachievementgap.org
 - Tutor request form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfId6osOI1dBDdA9n8eNFmft0IMIFT8HaomPMjgx70r3Lvggg/viewform>
 - No students have signed up for tutoring yet. Trying to think of a better way to advertise the opportunity. Some teachers have been contacted.
 - Survey sent out and received lower response than hoped for. May send survey out again.
- Walker Walking the Walk (Kelli Kaul/Carrie Shonk)
 - Current white accountability group is examining whiteness, our role in upholding racist systems in D65 and Walker, ways to disrupt racism with accountability buddies, homework with articles and podcasts, and weekly discussions.
 - People will be invited to join us for future events.
 - Contact Carrie Shonk at carrieshonk@yahoo.com with any questions.

Engagement Committee Update

- Lunch bunches will continue during hybrid learning. All grades will change to Mondays starting 2/22, except 3rd grade, which will stay on Tuesdays because they are the only grade where everyone has the same in person and remote schedules.
- Volunteer monitors are needed for 4th and 5th grades. Most likely thinking about combining those grades. Please reach out to Racheal Alexander (Racheal.alexander@gmail.com) or Michelle Redmond-Henley (Redmond.mk@gmail.com).
- Two family game nights being planned. Chose these games because they are for full families with kids and parents playing together. Nicole O’Connell does this for a living and will spearhead both events.
- Racheal will reach out to Michelle about Kahoots as a possible fundraiser.
- 3/13 is Pictionary, around 4/10 is Bingo. We will be offering prizes like gift cards to businesses who have supported Walker in the past.

Volunteer Needs:

- Lunch Bunch monitors, especially 4th and 5th grade on Mondays (contact Racheal Alexander at Racheal.alexander@gmail.com)
- International Night cookbook committee (contact Cecilie Broch at ceciliebroch@gmail.com)
- STEAM Night committee (contact Matthew Krause at krause218@hotmail.com)

Important Dates:

- February 18th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event “The Connected Parent: An Expert Guide to Parenting in a Digital World” with John Palfrey and Nichole Pinkard, PhD
- February 24th, 5-8 pm: Culver’s Restaurant Night fundraiser
- February 25th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event “How to Not Die Alone: The Surprising Science That Will Help You Find Love” with Logan Ury and Eli Finkel, PhD
- March 1st: Deadline to order Spirit Wear
- March 1st, 7-8 pm: FAN Event “What Matters Now: Emotional Balance and Core Needs in the Post-Pandemic Era” with Nancy Burgoyne, PhD, and Maru Torres-Gregory, JD, PhD, LMFT
- March 4th, 7 pm: Chat with the Principal
- March 5th: End of second trimester; winter enrichments end.
- March 8th: Start of third trimester; spring enrichments start.
- March 13th: Pictionary Community Event
- March 17th, 7 pm: PTA Meeting
- March 29-April 2nd: Spring Break
- April 8th, 7 pm: Chat with the Principal
- April 10th: Bingo Community Event

Adjournment