

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, March 24, 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	Dee Johnson	Natalie Gillespie
Allison Ackerman Bull	Natasha Dobson	Raechel Alexander
Darlana Simmons	Ellen Nagella	Diana Sheehan
Ashanti Henderson	Liz Ribeiro	Tara Williams
Sarah Trulley	Michelle Redmond-Henley	Isabel Machado
Katherine Walts		

Last month's PTA meeting minutes were approved.

Principal's Announcements

- Mr. Gray apologizes he cannot be here tonight.
- Today is the last opportunity to change from the remote to in person learning pathway. Please change your preference online or email Mr. Gray this evening.

Engagement Committee Update

- Lunch bunches are still going strong.
 - We usually have 15-30 kids depending on weather, timing.
 - Seems to be pain-free for parent volunteers and kids are having a good time.
- First virtual family game time was Pictionary on 3/13.
 - Thank you to Raechel Alexander, Amber Bond, Donna Wang Su, Nicole Gilman O'Connell, and Laura Lerer Cohn.
 - We had about 30 families and people seemed to have a good time. There were a lot of good young artists.
 - Hoping in May to do another Pictionary event with just kindergarten students to help them get to know each other better.
- Next is virtual bingo game on Thursday 4/22 (new date). Like Walker Game Night on a weeknight.
 - Probably 6:30 or 7 pm for an hour.
 - There will be lots of prizes and goody bags for all. Theme will be a pajama party with fun items related to theme. Prizes will be gift cards from businesses that have supported Walker in the past.
 - Sign up will go live this week or after spring break.
 - District recommends Bingo Baker, and you can try playing with your family ahead of time at www.bingobaker.com.
- Email Raechel Alexander at raechel.alexander@gmail.com with any more community event ideas.

Teacher Announcements

Executive Committee Announcements

- Thank you to the families who joined us for the first virtual family game time of Pictionary.
- If you have not already, please fill out the 5 Essentials Parent Survey at https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/?target_name=parent. We need 20% of parent and caregiver participation to receive the results.
- YEA (Young Evanston Artists) 2021 is happening! Student artwork will be displayed in Evanston storefront windows starting 5/15. Please encourage your students to create and submit completed art ASAP in the YEA assignment posted on Google Classroom or Seesaw. Art teachers are looking to showcase as many students as possible.
- PTA Council update. We are doing a great job getting people involved in events (Pictionary, cook book, Bingo, book fairs). A lot of schools are having trouble planning activities and getting people to join.
- Spirit Wear update. Everyone who ordered spirit wear should have their items. Email Allison (alliackerman@hotmail.com) or Courtney Shapiro (cshapiro@buybluesky.com) with any concerns or questions. It was a smaller batch this round.
- Fifth Grade Farewell gifts and fundraiser in lieu of a yearbook is coming together. This year is a little different than the traditional year-end culmination activities. Mr. Gray will share part of the celebration after spring break.
 - From the PTA end, we are planning a couple different things, including the Lou Malnati's fundraiser (\$13 for coupons, \$5 per coupon is returned to Walker PTA).
 - If your fifth-grade child is in person, they should have received a flyer and certificates to sell. Anyone who wishes to purchase coupons can do so on MemberHub at <https://walker.memberhub.store/store/items/751651>.
 - There is a small competition among students so you can add a student name in MemberHub.
 - Orders are due 4/12.
 - We are trying to do yard signs for all fifth graders (many schools in the district are), and not finalized, but possibly trying to put together a balloon arch for the final week of school.
- International Night turned into Walker cookbook update. (Cecilie Ryan)
 - A cookbook tentatively titled "A World of Flavors" is being compiled.
 - Please submit recipes by 4/12 at <http://www.typensave.com/get-started/>. Click 'Login' to enter the username 'walkercookbook' and password 'walker'.
 - You will need to enter your name and email address and click 'Continue', then 'Add Recipes.' If you need assistance with a recipe submission, please contact walkerschoolcookbook@gmail.com.

Treasurer Update

- Income was \$20 in spirit wear sales.
- Expenses were the website fee.
- Money Market Account balance at February month-end was \$27,013.61. \$10,832 is earmarked for school supply funds.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Walker Wolverine Virtual Dinner Party and Fundraiser Kick Off on Friday 4/9. (Michelle Redmond-Henley) Similar to recent District 65 events, Walker is partnering with Latin American restaurant La Cocinita, which means "the Little Kitchen," for an adults' only virtual social event.

- Three step process. Step 1 is to purchase event tickets on MemberHub for a suggested donation of \$35 per person, which includes a virtual trivia game run by Trivia Mafia, a cocktail kit to make an alcoholic or non-alcoholic mojito led by parent Kevin Adams (picked up with food kits), and mingling with other parents. Purchase tickets here:
(<https://walker.memberhub.store/store/items/742866?fbclid=IwAR3amfDPWNAny2vXUxBlv8A0gzlY0l48Mrs0Hxl7iEuPwM68iOc63VIH8A>)
- Step 2 is to purchase a cold or hot food kit from the La Cocinita food truck, which will be available for pick up in the Walker parking lot on Friday 4/9 from 3-6 pm, along with your alcoholic or non-alcoholic mojito making kit. Parents and caregivers will return home to eat dinner during the zoom call. La Cocinita will donate back \$5 per order to Walker's PTA. Order deadline is 11:59 pm on Wednesday 4/7. Purchase food kits here:
(<https://www.exploretock.com/lacocinitafoodtruckevanston/experience/269079/walker-school-fundraiser-with-la-cocinita-food-truck?date=2021-04-09&size=1&time=12%3A00>).
- Step 3 is to donate what you can to the direct appeal. Whether or not you can attend the adults' only social, please donate to the school's biggest fundraiser at
(https://walker.memberhub.store/store/items/742881?fbclid=IwAR1etjbxIHzxkJzXMVraF_iaX4XTr0eAudzzlfZvaVT-gypRC5lx91dK03s).
- Culver's Restaurant Night in February earned \$210 for the PTA. (Michelle and Ken Mantel)
- Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser near Valentine's Day earned \$121.10 for the PTA.
- Hub's Restaurant Night last week earned \$625 (including a \$200 unclaimed check from last year) for the PTA.
- Next restaurant night will be in May. The virtual dinner party and fundraiser will replace the April restaurant night.
- Amazon Smile: log in to smile.amazon.com on the website or phone app and select David E. Walker PTA as your charity. We recently received a quarterly check for \$356.36. Thanks to everyone who shopped for our school!
- Box Tops for Education: paper receipts can be scanned and uploaded on the app and mobile receipts can be forwarded to receipts@boxtops4education.com within two weeks of purchase.
- On Benefit app, please change fundraiser from holiday to Walker Fundraiser.
(<https://www.benefit-mobile.com/causes/walker-elementary-school>)

Equity Committee Update

- FAN Events (Anita Geevarghese): <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/> (free and open to all, registration required)
 - April 6th, 7-8 pm: "A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance" with poet, essayist, and cultural critic Hanif Abdurraqib.
 - April 8th, 7-8 pm: "Fans: How Watching Sports Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Understanding" with author and journalist Larry Olmsted and author, travel writer, and syndicated radio host Michael Patrick Shiels.
 - April 15th, 7-8 pm: "The Fight for Free Speech: Ten Cases That Define Our First Amendment Freedoms" with Assistant Chief Counsel for ABC News and author Ian Rosenberg, J.D. and author and former mayor of Charlottesville, VA Michael Signer, J.D. PH.D.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson, Sarita Smith)
 - Audit committee is going to focus on schools' 2020 figures and records only.
 - PEP is hoping to present the full plan in May. Plan to attend the Walker PTA meeting in May for us to discuss.
- 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/1FAIpQLSfld6osOI1dBDdA9n8eNFmfT0IMIFT8HaomPMjgx70r3Lvggg/viewform>
- Miles Henry and Kya Wilkins, Walker fifth graders, were honored on 3/18 at D65's virtual African American Youth Achievement Awards. Congratulations to the students and their families for this honor!
- Walker Walking the Walk (Kelli Kaul/Carrie Shonk)
 - Eight-week discussion group led by two Praxis leaders ended this week.
 - Looking to join forces with Black Students Achieve group for the next event.

Volunteer Needs

- Stay tuned for in person Scholastic Book Fair and Fifth Grade Farewell volunteer needs.

Important Dates:

- March 29th-April 2nd: Spring Break
- April 6th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- April 7th: Deadline to order food kits from La Cocinita for 4/9 Virtual Dinner Party
- April 8th, 7 pm: Chat with the Principal
- April 8th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- April 9th: Walker Wolverine Virtual Dinner Party and Fundraiser Kickoff
- April 12th: Recipes for International Night Walker Cookbook due
- April 12th: Lou Malnati's Fifth Grade Farewell Fundraiser coupon orders due
- April 15th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- April 21st, 7 pm: PTA Meeting
- April 22nd: Virtual Bingo Game in evening
- May 14th: Teacher Kindermixer for 2021-22 school year on Walker playground
- May 17th-May 22nd: In person Scholastic Book Fair (virtual portion open for two weeks)

Adjournment