

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, November 17th @ 7:30pm

Location: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82667847954?pwd=ajljWUgyWGZvbHhONWVaUWFHT21Odz09>

Meeting ID: 826 6784 7954      Passcode: walker

**Attendees:**

Sarah Trulley	Sarah Czepiel	Colin Sheaff	Patty Vertiz-Harris
Darlana Simmons	Courtney Ivaska	Anita Geevarghese	Katherine Walts
Allison Bull	Amy Wharton	Natalie Gillespie	Natasha Dobson
James Gray	Khristie Kaplan	Erin	

**Agenda**

No objections to Oct. meeting minutes.

Principal's Announcements:

- 3 things:
  - No school next week - have a great fall break!
  - The return of EISMA (Evanston In-School Music Association) is here. On Dec. 1st students will get to see a performance of a brass quintet.
  - Winter enrichments sign up has started. Sign up now - classes will be canceled if the minimum number of kids is not met.
- Dec. 7th is an early dismissal and Dec 23rd is the last day before winter break.
- From Ms. Wharton:
  - A big shout out to Jennifer Gilbert for heading the recycling of candy wrappers!
  - American recycle day was on the 15th. We had flyers on what can and can't be recycled. Teachers had them posted. There is talk of having students be recycling captains to encourage recycling.
  - A big shout out to Katherine for all her hard work with the grounds and garden.
  - Thank you for considering funding the teacher lounge makeover. I'll have a detailed proposal at the next meeting.

Teacher Announcements: Khristie Kaplan is PTA teacher liaison

- Lost and found items have greatly reduced, but there are still lots of hoodies. Please come to look if any belong to your student. Please write names on belongings so they can be easily returned to their owner.
- Kids need proper gear for the cold weather for recess. Kids will be outside in feels like temps of 20 degrees and above.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Directory (New Updated Version is out and constantly growing)
- 5th grade yearbook fundraiser - Lou Malnati's pizza certificates. Just started. You can buy them on our memberhub store. Only the 5th graders are selling them. The past few years it has fully funded the purchase of the 5th grade yearbooks, but we do have money budgeted to cover the cost if it is needed.
- Sports Update:
  - Basketball teams for 3rd, 4th & 5th grades starting. In the past we've done it through the City of Evanston, 40 kids have signed up so far, estimating 80-90 kids total. The district is looking to launch their own program for 4th & 5th graders- look out for more info. But 3rd grade will definitely be through the City of Evanston.
  - Had flag football: 14 5th graders and 2 parent coaches. They did well, only lost one game
- Winter Electives are open for enrollment:  
<https://rightschool-walker-elementary.jumbula.com/?fbclid=IwAR1O3jiC3MXm2FsfJB1f7oJlkwRZ8x1Oh5ePtYsRh3xWXgN9xMXDOWREYyo#/electives-winter-2022-23>
- Chess Tournament: Generally makes a good amount of money from it. We need volunteers to help run it - cafeteria/concession stand and to help direct people and sign them in. Chess club is doing well - has 12 kids participating.
- ByLaws - no change this year, keeping them as is. Later in the year we will see if they need to be revised for next year.
- We are doing holiday gift cards for staff this year (like last year). We will collect all the money and then disperse it to all Walker staff. We will open it up after break on memberhub.
- At the next meeting we will vote on new business. Through PEP we are able to hold back \$2500 for big projects. This year we would like to fund the redesign of the teacher's lounge to show our appreciation and give them a nice space to take a break in. We will have a detailed plan to vote on at the next meeting.

Treasurer Update

- Budget Update: Walkersfest - amazing! Under budget in cost, brought in over \$8000 and we netted \$3900. Great job team and Patty!
- Check Reimbursement Form: <https://forms.gle/5TUUA8DAi36PsaD59>

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- The district is holding Beyond Diversity training for the community on Dec 1 & 2, free to attend, registration closes tomorrow. Highly recommended.
- FAN: Back to live events, but also still have online events. Go to their website for all upcoming events: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/>. If you can't make the events at the scheduled time, they record them and post them on YouTube.
- WAG: working on projects - making a survey to help increase PTA participation

#### Fundraising Committee Update

- Walkerfest Recap: Went great! Lots of fun. Had 22 volunteers, plus more who jumped in to help at the time of the event.
- Restaurant Night Results: Panda Express made \$118 and we're still waiting for the El Nuevo Tipico results. Dec 7th restaurant night will be at Jarasa Kabob.

#### Adults Night Out

- Save the Date: Feb 25th
- Starting to plan, looking for more volunteers, any support is welcome

#### Garden Committee Update

- Grounds clean up (communicating with District)
- Exploring Food beds in Spring
- Thanks to the committee, Ms. Wharton, PTA and the district for all their hard work and time put into cleaning up the north side of the grounds. The NW garden is the focus right now since it is the most used. We need grounds work done first before we can move forward with new projects (the food gardens). Will probably do a survey with the staff to see what they would like done. We would love any feedback from parents and teachers.

#### Book Fair

- Stated planning, the fair starts on March 16th, a big fun event
- We can use some more people on the planning committee. Please email Natasha Dobson if interested ([natashadobson13@gmail.com](mailto:natashadobson13@gmail.com))

#### Community Engagement Update

- Bingo - Dec 11th, 1-3pm, a free family event, prizes and snacks, fun time for community, we are looking for prize donations
- ESSCA serve date Dec 6th: [sign up here](#) (Adult volunteers only, help people shop the store)

#### Volunteer Needs

- District Wide Chess Tournament (Dec 10th, set up on Dec 9th): No chess experience needed to volunteer. Not only is it a great way to showcase Walker, but a great way to meet fellow parents and students from other schools. We will need help with the Information Desk in the front of school, Scorekeepers in the Gym, Set Up and Clean Up, Cantina workers, and last but not least, **we need somebody to manage the Cantina, which is very important for fund-raising. Sign up here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b44a5a82ba57-evanston>
- Books & Breakfast December Volunteers Needed: Books & Breakfast (B&B) is a local nonprofit that provides a healthy morning meal and homework help to Evanston elementary students in need of additional support. Walker B&B is looking for substitute volunteers during December while our regular Northwestern student tutors are on winter break. **From December 5th to December 16th**, we are in need of additional volunteers each morning. Volunteer tutors help with homework or spend time reading with students. No experience necessary! We can train you on the spot. Walker Books & Breakfast runs from 8-8:50 a.m. each school day in the gym. We aim to help students start their day physically, emotionally, and academically ready for learning. We would love for you to join us! Please sign up at [this link](#) to pick a morning slot. You will have to scroll down to find the correct section for our site. Please contact Nimrah Tariq at [nimraht@booksbreakfast.org](mailto:nimraht@booksbreakfast.org) if you need more information.
- Urgent ask for Rice Education Center: We're seeking support for urgent needs at Rice Education Center. Rice is looking to fulfill this need before Fall Break, so if you are able to donate items, please drop them off by Thursday evening. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4CAFA628A3FA7-urgent>. \*\*All asks have been fulfilled.

#### New Business

#### Announcements

#### Important Dates

- Nov 21-25: No School (Fall Break)
- Dec 5: Vision & Hearing Screening Make Up
- Dec 6: Walker ESSCA Serve Day
- Dec 7: Restaurant Night

- Dec 7: Early Dismissal @ 12:05pm
- Dec 10: District Wide Chess Tournament @ Walker, 8am-6pm
- Dec 11: Bingo @ 1-3pm
- Dec 15: 1st & 2nd grade Combined Music Concert @ 11:45am-12:25pm
- Dec 15: PTA Meeting

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Thursday, December 15th at 7:30pm on Zoom