

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, March 16th @ 7:30pm

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

Meeting ID: 826 6784 7954      Passcode: walker

Attendees:

Dante Wharton	Katherine Walts
Allison Bull	Patty Vertiz-Harris
Erin Sacluti	Grace Suhr-Kim
Darlana Simmons	Natalie Gillespie
Khristie Kaplan	James Gray
Katherine Vyas	

Principal's Announcements

- 11 days till Spring Break!
- Report cards are going home next Friday via email
- Planning to conduct a Safety presentation on Zoom. It will be recorded and I'll send it out

Teacher Announcements: Khristie Kaplan is PTA teacher liaison

- Ms. Oldfield: Girls Running Strong will start April 19th (held on Wed & Fri), flyer will go out after Spring Break
- Spiritwear sizing - any samples? - No, using a new vendor, they have lots of options, look for specific details on each item when ordering. If teachers need to return an item, the PTA is good with refunding them and can sell the item later.
- Thanks for having flyers ready before Fridays!

Executive Committee Announcements

- ANO: Thank you so much for all the hard work put in by Kathy Vyas, Nicole O'Connell and [Liz Mauck Ribeiro](#) for planning, organizing this amazing event from day one. Thank you to all the people who brought food, helped set up and clean up. Really fun and well attended event! Lots of new faces and the potluck was a hit!
- Congrats to the 7 players of the Walker Chess Team who played in the Evanston Scholastic Chess Tournament at King Arts! The team was represented by Emin Bilgic in Kindergarten, Adrian Horopciuc in 2nd grade, Ari Gassel, Emma Alexander, Kuba Sheaff, Norman Yao, and Yusuf Bilgic in 5th grade.
- Congratulations to the Walker 5th grade basketball teams and 4th grade boys basketball team for making it to the playoffs!
- Spirit Week is coming up: March 27th-31st - Amy Wharton is planning it with the teachers
- Need volunteers for Nominating Committee: We have 2 positions to fill (co-president and DEI Chair), we need a few people to be in the nominating committee to help find people for the positions, Allison is heading the committee. Email Allison ([alliackerman@hotmail.com](mailto:alliackerman@hotmail.com)) if interested

Treasurer Update

- Budget Update: ESSCA & Justin Wynn donations went through, received some MemberHub giveback funds
- Feb Report: <https://walkerwolverinespta.files.wordpress.com/2023/03/walker-pta-budget-and-treasurer-reports-2022-2023-feb.pdf>
- Check Reimbursement Form: <https://forms.gle/5TUUA8DAi36PsaD59>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- A huge thanks to Brandis Friedman and our guests at our One Book, One School event! Done really well, teachers were able to keep the books in their classroom (all books donated by PTA). The book *Saturday* by Oge Mora was read.
- FAN: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/>, watch past recorded events on their website
  - Next event: Psych: The Story of the Human Mind with Paul Bloom, PH.D. Mar 21, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Next Chat 'n Chew: On Tuesday, March 21, 5-6:30 pm at Jennifer's Edibles (1623 Simpson St., Evanston) District 65 parents/caregivers and community members are invited to join Superintendent Horton and members of the District 65 Leadership Team for our next Community Chat 'n Chew! These gatherings are meant to be a time for the community to come together for informal conversation and refreshments. District leaders will be present to answer

questions about the important initiatives underway in support of all D65 students; they also welcome your suggestions and feedback. NOTE: Spanish interpretation will be provided.

- We're looking to re-engage the BSA (Black Students Achieve) group to restart and find new leaders. More info/outreach to come.

#### Fundraising Committee Update

- March Restaurant Night Results: Rosati's, made \$125, Rosati's donated to the total to make it \$200 total
- April Restaurant Night: Nothing Bundt Cake, but still locking it down
- Spiritwear: OUR NEW SPIRITWEAR STORE IS OPEN!! Many items and designs to choose from. Check out our store here: <http://1stplace.sale/30464>. Take advantage of the shipping sale on now. Great gift ideas for Teachers & Staff, Athletic wear, Winter attire, Blankets, hats, scarves, and more!
  - New company this year, so far 7 items have been sold, there are lots of sales coming up, 25% off currently, teacher discounts are coming up (will post details soon)
  - No minimums, no fees, no strings - can drop the company anytime

#### Adults Night Out Recap:

- Good turnout, great community event - new parents and staff came, lots of mingling and getting to know each other. Great variety of raffle prizes. Everyone loved the food that families shared! Great potluck contributions were so generous, great food!
- \$1290 for the 50/50 raffle
- \$4106 raised after expenses
- Feedback: Possibly change it to a different time of year, some parents said they would be more likely to go if nicer weather, esp if the venue can be outside.

#### Book Fair

- The Walker All for Books Coin-A-Day Challenge: March 13-17
  - Money raised from this pays for free book vouchers and books from teachers' wishlists
- Book Fair: March 18th-22nd
  - All set up, wish lists will be made tomorrow
  - Shop in person on Saturday, March 18th at 1pm-4pm during the BINGO event, on Tuesday & Wednesday, March 21st & 22nd after school at 3:30pm-6pm, and during our special GRANDS event (invite your GRANDS: Grandparents, Relatives, Aunts and Uncles, Neighbors, and Dedicated Caregivers to SPRING into Walker's Book Fair with you!) on Wednesday, March 22nd during students' recess times (10:30am-1pm).
  - Shop the fair online at [bit.ly/WalkerFair](http://bit.ly/WalkerFair) from March 17th-22nd
  - Free & Reduced lunch students will all receive a voucher for a free book. Families that are not free & reduced lunch but would still like a voucher, please email Mr. Gray and he will add your student.
- Need volunteers: [Sign up here](#)

#### Community Engagement Update

- March Events
  - Bingo on March 18th @1:30-3:30pm, please bring friends! So much fun for the kids
  - March Walker Service Project: Birthday in a Bag, donated to a food pantry
    - Fill a gift bag with a foil cake pan, cake mix, icing, cake decorations, party decorations (balloons, streamers), possibly a small present. So can be picked up at a food pantry and can easily celebrate a family member's birthday
    - Drop off during our Bingo event or send to school by March 31st
  - April Walker Service Project: Earth Day Walker Yard Clean Up
  - May Walker Service Project: Collect donations for pet food/supply pantry

#### Climate Action Team Update

- Earth Day Cleanup at Walker: Families can celebrate Earth Day by helping to clean up the Walker grounds. Saturday, April 22, 10 - 11:30 am. Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45AFA82CA3FCC43-walker2>
  - A few volunteers are needed to help with check-in and other tasks at the Earth Day cleanup. Contact Jen Gilbert at [jennifergilbert333@gmail.com](mailto:jennifergilbert333@gmail.com) if interested.

- All are invited to the D65 Climate Action Community Meeting on March 21, 6:30-7:30 PM at Lincolnwood Elementary. Find out more about D65 Climate Action Teams: <https://www.district65.net/domain/791>
- Save the date! Come celebrate Earth Week with D65 Climate Action Teams at the fourth annual 10 Second Film Festival on Friday, April 21st at 6:30 PM in the One Rotary auditorium (1560 Sherman Ave). Visit <https://10secondfilmfestival.com> to get your free tickets and learn more. Walker students can submit films! Submission deadline is April 19th. Find out more here: <https://10secondfilmfestival.com/submit/>

#### Garden Committee Update

- Getting 10 free trees to plant (Girl Scouts donating 4, Natural Habitat Evanston matching the Girl Scouts donations & giving 4, 2 are donated from the plant sale)
  - Girl Scouts will maintain 7 trees that will be planted together and the garden team will care of the other 3 that are planted in another area
  - We will need volunteers later to water the trees over the summer
- Planning raised beds
  - Got approval to build 3 raised beds, getting the lumber from Evanston Lumber, will also do a vertical bed on the chain fence and use plastic containers
  - Looking for ways to get donations/grants to cut costs
  - Planning to build them on April 16th, will need volunteers to help build
  - Talking with teachers on how they want to use them

#### Volunteer Needs

- Book Fair: [Sign up here](#)
- Coaches Needed for Track & Field and Soccer Teams (running through the District)
  - 4th and 5th grade spring sports (Track & Field and Soccer). The season for both is April 10- May 20. We are hoping there will be 2 teams per grade: girls/non-binary and boys/non-binary. There will be one practice a week for both, one track meet at the end of the season and weekly Saturday soccer games at Quad in the afternoon. If you are interested in coaching please reach out to Tamiya wilborn at [wilbornt@district65.net](mailto:wilbornt@district65.net).
- Nominating Committee: Email Allison ([alliackerman@hotmail.com](mailto:alliackerman@hotmail.com)) if interested

#### New Business

- Save the Date for PEP Fest: Saturday June 3rd, 11-5pm, on the Washington Elementary School playground, 914 Ashland ave, Evanston
  - Pep Fest is a family focused, collaborative community effort to raise PTA funds, that will be equitably distributed to support all of our school district 65 students.
  - This festival will feature family friendly FREE activities, vendors from ages kid to adult bringing us art, crafts, clothing, jewelry, goods, and food.
  - Last year we did thank you cards as a craft. If you have any low cost easy ideas to do at our PTA booth, please let us know.

#### Announcements

- PTA Meeting will be held in person again starting in April
  - April's meeting will be after the Kindergarten Open House (on April 20 at 6pm). The PTA will help James get parent volunteers to be there to talk to families and give tours if needed and will also have flyers for our Kindermixers.

#### Important Dates

- March 18: Walker Bingo@ 1:30pm
- March 18, 21-22: Book Fair
- April 3-7: No School, Spring Break
- April 20: Restaurant Night, PTA Meeting (@ 7pm) & Kindergarten Open House (@ 6pm)

#### Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Thursday, April 20th at 7:00pm in person at Walker cafeteria