

Walker PTA meeting: Monday, September 18th @ 6:30pm
Location: Walker Elementary Garden

Agenda

Attendees:

Miah Logan	Emilie Johnson Bell	Grace Suhr-Kim	James Gray	Kathy Vyas
Carly Museberry	Rebecca Weber	Liz Riberro	Erin Saculti	Jennifer Gilbert
Gary Huen	Mariah Fe Walters	Khristie Kaplan	Darlana Simmons	
Maxine McKinney de Roysten	Jackie Unger	Patty Harris	Natalie Gillespie	

Principal's Announcements

- Picture Day is on Friday, all students will be photographed. Please don't wear green - they use a green screen for the background.
- No School on Sept. 25th and Oct. 4th
- Parent Teacher Conferences coming up in Oct. can be on Zoom or in person
- Y.O.U. programming starts on Oct. 2

Teacher Announcements: Khristie Kaplan is PTA teacher liaison - No updates this month

Executive Committee Announcements

- PTA Memberships: \$10 for a single member, \$15 for a family membership (2 adults), \$5 for faculty, No barriers membership is at no cost. Please purchase/sign up on our online store:
<https://walker.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>
- Register for Before & After School Enrichments: Registration open until Sept. 29. Fall programs run from Sept. 18-Dec 8. [Click here to register](#). Programs happen every trimester.
- K-4th graders can pre-order 2023/2024 Yearbooks, save 10% if purchased by Oct. 31: go to <https://web.treering.com/validate>, enter school passcode: 101507041679653. The PTA will provide yearbooks for all 5th graders!
- Free Open House Play at Quad for ALL Walker & Dawes Students: Oct. 3, 5-6pm & 6-7pm: Come try four of Quad Indoor Sports most popular youth classes. Kids will rotate through basketball, soccer, track, and football. Free and open to Walker and Dawes students. [Click here to register](#)
- D65 Pumpkin and Fall Decor Fundraiser: Pre-order pumpkins, mums, donuts, and corn stalks now and pick them up on Friday, September 29th, 4pm-7pm at Dawes Elementary School's (440 Dodge Ave. Evanston, IL - @ Oakton St.). Additional items will be available for purchase that day. Pre-ordering is available until September 25th. [Click here to pre-order](#)

Treasurer Update

- Present [2023/2024 Budget](#)
- Check Reimbursement Form: <https://forms.gle/5TUUA8DAi36PsaD59>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- New Chair: Diana Leza Sheehan
- FAN: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/>
- Still looking for parents/caregivers to put up heritage month bulletin boards. You can do however you would like, we have a budget for any supplies needed.
- The Willard Hispanic/Latine affinity group would like to connect with other Spanish-dominant or bilingual families at Walker:
 - Dear families, I am looking to connect with Hispanic, Latin or Bilingual families that live in north/west Evanston, with the goal of building a community and network that can support and help each other, while at the same time share and celebrate this beautiful heritage with our kids. If you are interested in connecting, please reach out to Ana Lebron (alebronmoreno@gmail.com).
 - Queridas familias, me gustaría conectar con cualquier familia hispana, latina, y/o bilingüe que resida en el norte/oeste de Evanston, con el fin de crear una comunidad en la que nos podamos ayudar los unos a

los otros, a la vez que compartimos y celebramos esta herencia tan bonita con nuestros hijos. Si están interesados en conectar, por favor contacten con Ana Lebron (alebronmoreno@gmail.com)

Fundraising Committee Update

- Spiritwear Sale: <https://1stplace.sale/30464>
- Passive Fundraising: Givebacks: <https://www.givebacks.com/how-it-works> & Box Tops for Education: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/get-the-app>
- Restaurant Nights: Hubs brought in \$139 (they matched what we brought in). Oct. 4th is our next one at Chipotle, 4-8pm. We need at least \$150 in sales to get 25% of profits.

Garden Committee Update:

- Looking for volunteers. Can be community members, grandparents, etc. Would love any help and at your own time. Send an email to kkwalts@gmail.com. There is no commitment other than receiving occasional emails. Volunteer opportunities include a) Assisting teachers & students with planting & projects, b) Consultation & education ("Is this a weed?" "Can I eat this?" "What kind of butterfly is this?"), c) Securing grants & donations, d) One time watering, planting, weeding.
- Most of the garden is new, it's the first year for the vegetable garden boxes.
- We want to encourage students, teachers and the community to enjoy the outside more through the use of the garden.
- There will be designated time in classrooms for students to use the gardens. You can also come with your students before or after school to use the garden.
- This year we have 6 teachers wanting to use the gardens and planting.
- We have one of the biggest garden spaces in the school district.
- A big thank you to Katherine for spearheading the garden rejuvenation!
- [Click here for an information flier about the garden committee](#)

PEP Update:

- PEP is the PTA Equity Project - One district. One Fund. One community equitably meeting the needs of all students across our 18 District 65 schools. PEP does this by pooling PTA funds and equitably distributing them to all schools ensuring that each school, each PTA, has funds that they need to provide opportunity for the students. Additionally, the PEP committee is made up of caretakers and teachers working together to create and share equity toolkits to assist PTAs to ensure equitable outcomes at each school.
- If anyone is interested in joining the Walker PEP team, please reach out to Liz or Jackie.
- PEP is currently working on figuring out how we can fund capital projects (ex: new playgrounds or big projects that would be expensive)
- Walker falls into the middle range, we usually get back what we put into the fund.

Climate Action Committee:

- Part of a D65 effort, trying to lead environmental efforts at all schools
- Things we've done:
 - Waste sorting in the lunchroom (liquids, recycling composting, garbage), been doing it for 3 years
 - Halloween candy wrapper recycling
 - Walker grounds clean up
 - Locker cleanout - donated a lot unwanted leftover school supplies
- We're looking to start a student club. If anybody would like to volunteer to help, we welcome you!
- If you'd like to volunteer in any way please email Jennifer at jennifergilbert333@gmail.com

Volunteer Needs: [Click here to sign up!](http://bit.ly/3PInlq9) (<http://bit.ly/3PInlq9>)

- Anybody wanting to join a committee or be involved in any way we welcome you!
- Room Parents

New Business

- Vote on [2023/2024 Budget](#)

- Erin moves to vote, Grace 2nd, all approve. Budget Passes

Important Dates

- Sept. 18: First Day of Fall Electives
- Sept. 19: D65 Climate Action Meeting, 4-5pm on Zoom
- Sept. 20: Walker Town Hall, Topic: Safety w/Mr. Gray at 6:30-7:30pm
- Sept. 22: Picture Day
- Sept. 25: No School (Yom Kippur)
- Sept. 28: Band & Orchestra Start (4th & 5th Grade)
- Sept. 29: D65 Parent University Meet Up, 6-7pm, [more info](#)
- Oct. 3: Free Quad Open House Play, 5-6pm & 6-7pm
- Oct. 4: No School (School Improvement Day)
- Oct. 4: Walker Dine to Donate: Chipotle
- Oct. 7: Fall Party, 4-6pm w/ Mr. Marcus of D.I.M.E.
- Oct. 9: PTA Meeting, 6:30-7:30pm in person

Adjournment: We hope to see you at next month's meeting on Oct. 9th at 6:30pm in the Walker Cafeteria!