

Upcoming Dates:

Dec 12-13:

Hearing & Vision Clinic

Dec 12 & 16:

D65 Structural Deficit
Input Meetings

Dec 18:

PTA Meeting(Zoom),
6:30

Dec 20:

Winter Electives
Registration Closes

Dec 23-Jan 6:

No School - Winter
Break

Jan 9:

Make Up for Hearing
and Vision Clinic

December 11, 2024



WALKER PTA Newsletter

● Registration is open for Winter Sports: Basketball, Cheerleading, and Ultimate Frisbee

Registration for [winter athletics](#) is open now through January 3. Beginning this school year, District 65 and the City of Evanston are excited to partner together to provide increased access to youth athletics programming! Students in grades 4-5 (basketball is open to grades 1st-5th: there's a 1st/2nd co-ed team, 3rd co-ed and 4th and 5th have separate girls/nb and boys/nb teams) at all District 65 elementary and magnet schools will have the opportunity to participate in basketball, cheerleading, and ultimate frisbee this winter.

More details about practice and game schedules are available on the District 65 website and on the registration page for each sport. Fee assistance will be provided both through the City and District 65 to ensure athletic programming remains at zero cost to families who qualify for free and reduced-price meals.

For more information and registration instructions, view the City of Evanston's [Winter Program Guide](#).

Walker still needs coaches, too. Coaching information can be found [here](#). We have students registered for all of the teams but not enough coaches.

● New Walker Merch Available

We're excited to launch some new, modern merch leading up to the Holiday season via Bonfire. This merch can be shipped directly to your home and would make for wonderful holiday gifts:

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/walker-elementary-school-pta/>

● Check Lost & Found by Dec 20th

Reminder to check the lost and found for any missing items! All items left behind will be washed and donated to [ESCCA - Evanston School Children's Clothing Association](#) on 12/20.

● Share Your Input About D65 Structural Deficit

From D65: Our administration and school board has an unwavering commitment to improving the district's financial health after several years of deficit budgets. Approximately \$13.2 million of reductions must be made before the start of next school year. We cannot do this work, nor would we ever want to, without the input of our staff, parents and caregivers, students, and community members.

We want to hear directly from families! These sessions are a continued effort to engage the community in learning more about the district's budget and financial outlook and to gather input. This helps ensure that the plan currently being developed remains aligned with our collective values and provides all children in our community with a high-quality education.

[More details](#)

- **December 12, 6:30-7:45 p.m.** at Nichols Middle School (Cafeteria) - 800 Greenleaf St., Evanston
- **December 16, 9:30-10:45 a.m.** at Fleetwood-Jourdain Center - 1655 Foster St., Evanston

Unable to attend? [Respond electronically](#)

● December PTA Meeting: Dec. 18, 6:30-7:30

Come join us for this month's meeting! We will be meeting on Zoom from 6:30-7:30 pm. Mr. Gray will send out the meeting link closer to the meeting.

● ESCCA Update - Cold Weather Items and Supervisors Needed!

Please consider donating gently used (or new if possible!) coats, gloves, hats and scarves. ESCCA is also in need of gently used clothing that meets these [guidelines](#). All donations will be offered to D65 children in need through ESCCA's shop at JEH. Items can be dropped off at the drive-up bin on the west side JEH (1500 McDaniel) or in the bin at Walker, just inside Door 5 at the cafeteria entrance. You can also support ESCCA by shopping [ESCCA's Amazon Wishlist](#).

If you would like to learn more about accessing ESCCA's services, please contact your school health clerk.

● Don't Forget to Use Givebacks During Your Holiday Shopping

A simple way to donate funds to the Walker PTA this holiday season is through the Givebacks program. Givebacks is a free cashback program that you can earn cash for you and Walker School when you shop at the brands and restaurants you know and love. Go to givebacks.com to sign up and for more information.

● Five Below Fundraiser Note

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Five Below fundraiser! The store needs to keep the flyers, so if you still have your flyer send it in to the Walker office by Friday the 14th and we'll collect them.

● Join the Walker PTA

Join the PTA to have a voice in our school! A 2024-2025 PTA membership gives you the ability to vote on what we do as a PTA and how we spend our PTA funds for the year. There are no obligations! Participate in our meetings and volunteer as much or as little as you want.

We are currently looking for candidates for Co-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Elections are in April. [If you are interested please email us.](#)

To purchase a membership, please go to our [online store](#). Parent/Guardian membership is \$10, Family membership (2 adults) is \$15, No-Barrier Membership is Free, Faculty membership is \$5, and General/Community membership is \$10.

District 65 Updates/Info & Community Events

- **Listen & Learn: Structural Deficit Reduction Plan:** [Click here for info](#)
- **Video - Learn more about D65's budget:** [Click here for video](#)
- **Registration opens next week for kindergarten and magnet programming/schools:** [Click here for more details](#)