

WHAT'S UP, WALTERIA?

Walteria PTA – Proudly Supporting Walteria Elementary
24456 Madison St - Torrance, CA - 90505
<http://pta.walteriaelementary.org> - 310-533-4487

Welcome Back, Wildcats!

A Message from the President



As we all make the big transition back to a full day of in-person school, we will likely find lots of new challenges awaiting us. Some of our younger Wildcats will be walking into a classroom for the first time in first grade after a full year of virtual Kindergarten! For many kids, coming back to school is going to feel very unfamiliar. This year, perhaps more than ever before, there is a huge

need for engaging programs and activities that will help ease our student body back into the school experience.

The PTA exists primarily to support our children's educational development in ways that the school district can't. We fundraise, volunteer, organize, and assist because we know that those things make for a better, stronger school community, and that is what we want for our kids. Funds raised by the PTA go directly towards enrichment experiences like assemblies, art and music programs, science labs, and our school library, and they provide much-needed supplies in each teacher's classroom. All of these things directly correlate to the social-emotional health of the student population.

Everything that we do at Walteria depends on your support. As the year begins, we ask for three key things: Membership, Direct Donation, and volunteering your time. Please consider joining and giving so we can make this school year special and memorable for all our kids.

--Katrina Hetrick, Walteria PTA President 2021-22

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WALTERIA PTA DIRECT DONATION 2021-2022

The Walteria PTA's annual Direct Donation fundraiser is the most effective and beneficial way that we can raise money for all of our programs, activities, and classrooms.

PTA funding pays for assemblies, Adventures in Art, the school library, 5th grade promotion, science lab experiences, field trips, scholarships, classroom supplies, and so much more!

Direct Donation is **convenient** (no selling products, no asking friends and neighbors to contribute), it's **high-yield** (no sharing our profits with an outside company), and it **promotes school spirit** and **builds community**.

To donate or learn more, visit <http://directdonation.walteriaelementary.org> or scan here!

Questions? Email donations@walteriaelementary.org



BRONZE LEVEL - \$180/student

For just \$1 per day for every day of school, you can make a difference at Walteria!

Your BRONZE level donation includes:

- an exclusive Walteria soft hat designed ONLY for Direct Donation sponsors
- a Walteria tote bag
- a Walteria bag tag
- a set of Walteria pencils
- one 2021-2022 PTA membership (a \$10 value)



SILVER LEVEL - \$250/student*

*or a \$450+ total donation from families with 2+ Walteria students

Your SILVER level donation includes all BRONZE items listed above AND:

- an exclusive Walteria Wildcat plush keychain
- a special Wildcat Ponce experience for all children in the SILVER sponsorship level or above
- special family recognition in the Walteria yearbook



GOLD LEVEL - \$350+/student*

*or a \$650+ total donation from families with 2+ Walteria students

Your GOLD level donation includes all SILVER items listed above AND:

- your choice of snapback hat or additional soft hat
- exclusive student pins for surprise prize giveaways throughout the year
- family photo with the Wildcat mascot
- special family recognition in the Walteria yearbook and on a banner posted at the school



Meet Your 2021-22 PTA Executive Board



President
Katrina Hetrick

Katrina has been on the PTA board for two years as the VP of Programs. She was the Adventures in Art chair in 2017-18 and currently serves on the AIA executive board. She is mom to Grant (5th), Glenn (3rd) and Caroline (3rd), wife to Jim, and has two elderly cats, Kona and Pearl.



Executive Vice President
Wendy Ferrigno

This is Wendy's 4th year volunteering on the PTA board. She also volunteers as the Librarian for the school, training the 25 classroom library volunteers each year and procures new books for our students to read. Her Wildcats, Kaitlynn and Allie, are in 4th and 5th grade.



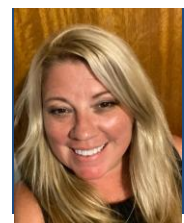
1st Vice President
Ways & Means
Ruth Tanouye

Ruth joined the PTA without realizing how much effort is required to help the PTA. However, the rewarding satisfaction and her children's pride in their mom keeps her going. This is her 4th year on the PTA Board. She has a 5th and a 4th grader. Go Wildcats!



2nd Vice President
Communications
Sowmya Chigarapalle

Sowmya is a recent addition to the PTA board and has been a classroom volunteer for the last two years. She is excited about learning from and working with the board and is looking forward to putting together a fun year for the kids. She has a 3rd grader and a 3 year old preschooler.



3rd Vice President
Hospitality
Tiffany Taylor

Tiffany is a full time construction project manager in the South Bay. She loves anything Disney and spending time with her family. Her son Parker is in 4th grade this year and loves being a Wildcat. This is her fourth year on the PTA and she loves giving back to the community.



4th Vice President
Programs
Sara Means

Sara served as the Adventures in Art Chair for the past two years. This is her first year on the PTA board, but was very active on the PTA board at Carr Elementary before moving to the Walteria area. She is mom to Connor (5th) and Owen (2nd).



5th Vice President
Health & Welfare
Jae Kim

Jae's initial interest and participation on the PTA started with BoxTops and Coca-Cola fundraising. It has been an enjoyable four years working at various events and being a room parent, and this is a bittersweet final year, as Jae's daughter is a 5th grader.



6th Vice President
Special Events
Diane Safah-Kanjee

This is Diane's first year serving on the PTA board. She has previously been a docent and a chair for the Adventures in Art program. Diane has two Wildcats, Zain (4th) and Maya (2nd). She also has a senior, Mario, at South High. Diane is looking forward to a great year on the PTA!



Recording Secretary
Judi Maylone

Judi is happy to join the Walteria PTA Board this year. She has been part of the Wildcat Family since 2014. Her younger son is in 1st grade and her older son is in 7th at Richardson. When she's not shuttling her boys to school, sports, scouts, or church, she can be found reading a book.



**Treasurer
Araseli Bucher**

Araseli volunteered to serve as the PTA's Recording Secretary in 2019-2020. This year, she volunteered to serve as the Treasurer. Her son Beau is in the 4th grade.



**Financial Secretary
Stacie Watling**

Stacie is starting her PTA journey this year. She looks forward to working with this great group of volunteers! Her wildcat, Kynsie, is entering into 3rd grade.



**Auditor
Hairim Yoon**

This is Hairim's first year volunteering on the PTA board as an auditor. She is very excited to work with wonderful people and hopes to contribute to Walteria. Her husband Jinwoo will be helping as needed too. Her Wildcats, Chloe and Olivia Lee, are in 1st and 5th grade this year.



**Historian
Jinyi Hahn**

Jinyi (pronounced Jeannie) has been on the PTA board for two years as the financial secretary and will serve as a historian for another two years. She is mom to Claire in 4th grade, wife of Frank, and lives with a 4 year-old multipoo, Tango.



**Parliamentarian
Jennifer Cassidy**

Jennifer has been on the PTA board for the last five years in multiple positions and a docent for AIA. She is mom to Wade (5th grade) and several four-legged kids.



**Teacher Rep
Upper Grades
Rebecca Masi**

Rebecca has been with TUSD for 28 years. She was a PTA board member while her three children attended Walteria and stayed for the delicious snacks! She helps to coordinate Student Council, 5th Grade promotion, and STEAM Night.



**Teacher Rep
Upper Grades
Maria Ruth**

This is Maria's 19th year teaching at Walteria and her 8th year on the PTA board. Her own Wildcats have moved on to Richardson and South High School.



**Teacher Rep
Lower Grades
Kelly Calhoun**

Kelly has been teaching at Walteria since 2000 and has been actively involved in the PTA as long. When she is not teaching or participating in PTA/school events, you can find her playing with her pets, cheering on USC football, or spending time at Disneyland.



**Teacher Rep
Lower Grades
Christine Buchalla**

Christine has taught for 25 years in TUSD. She has been a member of PTA and part of the Walteria family for 18 years. She is a teacher representative and the Walteria PTA Scholarship chair. She is a wife and mom and has a loving dog named Callie.



Become a Member!

Joining the PTA benefits you AND your school!

The PTA...

- ✚ **supports** our teachers and classrooms with enriching materials and supplies.
- ✚ **links** families to important school and community information.
- ✚ **hosts** fun and educational clubs, programs, and events for our families.
- ✚ **raises** money to support the specific needs of our school.
- ✚ **engages** in school and digital safety initiatives.
- ✚ **offers** kids the opportunity to explore the arts and develop critical thinking, teamwork, and creativity.
- ✚ **inspires** a love of reading and enhances book and literary options for students.
- ✚ **encourages** healthy lifestyles and food choices for every family.
- ✚ **tracks** local, state, and national policies every day so we can advocate for what's best for our students, families, and schools.
- ✚ **creates** the village that helps to raise our kids and strengthen our community.
- ✚ **believes** we can make every child's potential a reality.

PTA Membership Perks

When you join the PTA, your membership includes discounts and special offers from a variety of businesses. Browse the Member Offers by [clicking here](#).



One PTA Membership is included in your Direct Donation package.
[Click Here](#) to purchase more!



Getting Involved as a Volunteer

**Our school community can always use your help!
These are just a few ways that you can volunteer your time to Walteria:**

Adventures in Art Docent

Adventures in Art docents teach a total of five art projects in their designated classroom over the course of the school year. Art experience is not required, just a love of art and the willingness to share it with students.

As a volunteer docent, you will attend Walteria's Adventures in Art (AIA) workshops to learn the techniques and processes for the year's art projects, coordinate with the classroom teacher to present them to the students, and assist with a schoolwide art show.

If you are interested in being an AIA docent, please [click here to fill out the interest form](#). For more information, email the current chairperson, Ray Wong, at adventuresinart@walteriaelementary.org.

All volunteers MUST submit the current TUSD online application and all related documents and be cleared by the office IN ADVANCE of their first assignment.

**Contact Kathy Bowman or Karen Satow in the office if you have any questions.
(310) 533-4487**

Magic of Music Docent

The Magic of Music Program has provided musical enrichment to Walteria's students for the past twenty years. Students of all grade levels get to explore a wide range of music and instrumentation through Magic of Music.

We need docents and assistants to teach the lessons, and NO EXPERIENCE in music is necessary! You just have to be comfortable presenting a lesson to your child's class. Detailed lesson plans, materials, and training are provided. There are only 9 lessons (about one per month) for the whole school year. Classroom time is flexible and arranged with the teacher. Your child will love having you help in their classroom. If you are interested, [fill out the docent interest form](#) or contact Ann Strong at magicofmusic1@gmail.com.

Classroom Librarian

Each class needs the help of a parent volunteer for library days. One volunteer will be needed for less than an hour on your scheduled day. Tasks may include:

- Reading to students
- Checking books in and out
- Organizing the book cart
- Shelving books in the library
- Straightening shelves
- Assisting with library displays
- Other duties as determined by your teacher or our Librarian Chair

Contact your teacher about volunteering as a classroom librarian or email librarian@walteriaelementary.org for more information.

Room Parent

The room parent's duties vary from one class to another, but their primary responsibility is communication. The PTA relies on room parents to notify families about upcoming events in a timely fashion. Room parents typically organize classroom celebrations, recruit volunteers for class events, and collect donations for supplies and teacher gifts.

Contact your teacher if you are interested in being the room parent for your classroom!

[CLICK HERE for the online TUSD Volunteer Form](#)

Reflections is Coming Soon! Start Preparing Your Entries!

NATIONAL PTA
REFLECTIONS

**2021-2022
CALL FOR
ENTRIES!**

Learn more
and get involved!
[PTA.org/Reflections](https://www.pta.org/Reflections)



**EXPLORE THE ARTS AND
EXPRESS YOURSELF!**



Explore the Arts and Express Yourself

National PTA's Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life.

Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-selected theme. This 50+ year-old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life.

The 2021–2022 Reflections theme is “I Will Change the World By...”

Students submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

Students participate in the appropriate division for their grade: Primary (Pre-K - Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), Special Artist (All grades welcome). Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may enter in the Special Artist Division or grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities.

All entries will be due October 12, 2021.

Check the Reflections page on the [Walteria PTA website](https://www.walteriapta.org) for more information on the submission process.



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

August

- 20 Parent Meeting (Virtual)
- 23 Direct Donation Campaign Begins
- 25 Welcome Back School Staff Luncheon
- 26 First Day of School

September

- 2 PTA Executive Board Meeting
- 6 Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- 9 Back to School Night (5-7:30 PM)
- 9 PTA Association Meeting (5-5:15 PM)
- 10 Picture Day
- 16-17 Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL

October

- 6 Walk To School Day
- 7 PTA Executive Board Meeting
- 12 PTA Reflections Entries Due
- 21-22 At-Risk Parent Conferences
- 24 Skechers Friendship Walk
- 25-29 Red Ribbon Week
- 25-29 Fall Book Fair
- 29 Halloween Activities

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, events on this calendar may change at any time. Please check the eBlast regularly, visit the school website, or verify with an Executive Board Member if you have any questions.

Directory

President	Katrina Hetrick ptapres@walteriaelementary.org
Executive VP	Wendy Ferrigno ptavp@walteriaelementary.org
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2 nd VP	Sowmya Chigarapalle communications@walteriaelementary.org
3 rd VP	Tiffany Taylor hospitality@walteriaelementary.org
4 th VP	Sara Means programs@walteriaelementary.org
5 th VP	Jae Kim healthwelfare@walteriaelementary.org
6 th VP	Diane Safah-Kanjee specialevents@walteriaelementary.org
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