

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 and Happy 2022!

A Message from the President



Welcome back, Wildcats! I know most of us have been hoping that this year will be better than the last, and even though it's off to a bumpy start, if we keep doing our best to stay healthy and be responsible, I'm sure things will look brighter soon.

With the current surge in cases, any events or gatherings are likely going to be on hold again, but we do have the STEAM fair coming up in the next couple of months and putting those projects together can be a very fun learning experience for our kids! I've included the information about it in this issue; if you need any clarification or assistance, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or to Dr. Ponce.

Our Winter Grams sale far surpassed any of our expectations, and we are so grateful to all of you for choosing to spread kindness and cheer to others while supporting the PTA! We are working hard to prepare for our Valentine's Day Grams sale, and we are confident that we won't be hit by the same supply chain issues that we saw for the holiday items. That said, supplies are always limited for a sale like this, so when the notices go out, make sure to place your orders ASAP! Our See's Candies Valentine's Day sale is also opening soon, more info on that to come.

And finally, we are asking for nominations for Honorary Service Awards and PTA Executive Board elections this month, so please take a look at those time-sensitive forms that are included in this newsletter. Thank you all!

--Katrina Hetrick, Walteria PTA President 2021-22

Inside This Issue

Message from the President	1
5 th Grade Gingerbread Houses	2
Yearbook Sales	3
STEAM Fair Info	4
See's Candies	5
Honorary Service Awards	6
Straw Ballot	6
COVID Testing Hours/Locations	7
Traffic Procedures	8
Safety Reminders	9
Membership Information	9
Upcoming Events	10
Quick Links/Directory	10





Gingerbread Fun!



A Walteria Tradition!

Our Wildcats traditionally have a gingerbread house decorating party in Kindergarten and in 5th Grade, and it's always very touching to see just how much they've grown and changed over the years. We feel very lucky that our 5th grade students were able to participate this year. Many thanks to the room parents and teachers who made all of this magic happen for them!



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PRICE: \$30.00/EACH





Torrance Unified School District students are invited and encouraged to submit a project for the 2022 **STEAM** Fair.

TUSD is emphasizing STEAM, where students will be applying and practicing their **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**ath skills, but approaching their projects with a creative, or **A**rtistic, perspective. This perspective is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) where students are encouraged to focus not just on results, but on their process, one that includes trial and error, divergent thinking, dynamic problem solving, and perseverance.

There are three different categories of projects that can be submitted.

Inventions

(TK – 12th Grade)

Create an invention with an explanation of what it is, how it works, and what problem it solves.

Collections

(TK – 1st Grade)

Create a collection of items to be sorted four different ways.

Experimental Design

(4th – 5th Grade)

Create an experiment to learn more about how to answer a question or solve a problem.



Projects entered in the Inventions category may be eligible for additional awards and the chance to continue on to the South Bay Regional Invention Convention.

Walteria-specific details and instructions, due dates, and scoring rubrics will be coming soon from your child's teacher and Dr. Ponce. Please check the eBlast regularly for any updates.

For general information about the types of projects, rules, expectations, and more, please [click here to visit TUSD's STEAM Fair website](#).

See's CANDIES®

A Delicious Fundraiser
Supporting the WALTERIA PTA



Click here to visit
seescandies.walteriaelementary.org
and place your order online!

Online ordering will be open
starting January 18th
See's will ship directly to each customer



Stock up on Valentine's gifts and treats
for your sweetheart or your friends and family
at the same retail prices you'd find in stores
and help our school at the same time!



Every year, the Walteria PTA recognizes some of the most outstanding volunteers who serve our school community through the Honorary Service Awards program.

If you know of someone who you feel deserves to be considered for an award, please use the link below to submit a nomination.

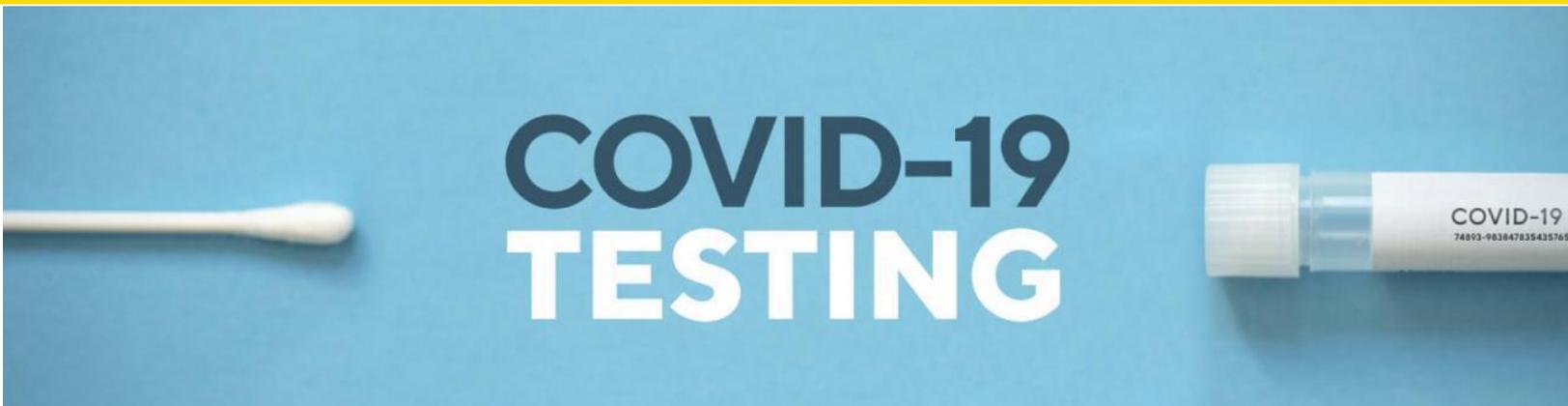
[Honorary Service Award Nomination Form](#)

Do you know someone who would make an excellent officer on the 2022-2023 Walteria PTA Executive Board?

Submit their name (or your own name!) on our Straw Ballot so the Nominating Committee can consider them as they prepare the election slate for the coming year.

[Walteria PTA Straw Ballot](#)





COVID-19 TESTING

TUSD is offering free COVID-19 testing for students and employees. Testing centers are located in the Performing Arts Center/Auditorium at each of the four high schools.

Students are not required to get regular testing. However, if they are exhibiting Covid-19 related symptoms or have been identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19 and need access to testing, the District is offering free testing at all four of our high schools for your convenience.

Testing Hours:

Testing is available Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at North, South, and West High Schools, and Torrance High School.

Testing locations are closed for lunch between 1:00-1:30 pm

Please arrive no later than 5:30 Monday-Thursday.

Please arrive by 5 pm on Fridays to ensure samples are processed over the weekend.

When you arrive at the testing site, you will be asked to register your student, provide an email address (to get test results) and proof of insurance (you can still get tested without this information). Results will be emailed to you, typically within 48 hours.

Testing site addresses for all four high school campuses:
(click the link to open a campus map showing the test site location)

[North High School: 3620 W 182nd St, Torrance, CA 90504](#)
(Testing has moved to outside the East Cafe)

[South High School: 4801 Pacific Coast Hwy, Torrance, CA 90505](#)

[Torrance High School: 2200 W Carson St, Torrance, CA 90501](#)

[West High School: 20401 Victor St, Torrance, CA 90503](#)

***The above information is subject to change at any time.
Please visit the [TUSD Covid Testing website](#) for the most up-to-date info***

DROP OFF / PICK UP LINE PROCEDURES



Every weekday morning, approximately 650 children are dropped off at Walteria between 8:35 and 9:00 AM. This creates a surge of traffic, and many people are exhibiting very unsafe behavior as they approach this crowded area.

In order to protect our kids and keep everyone safe during drop off and pick up, here are a few helpful reminders about the official process.

Traffic moves **CONTINUOUSLY** in the drop off/pick up line.

Do NOT park your car anywhere within the drop off zone during drop off/pick up times. LOADING ZONE: NO PARKING signs are clearly posted along the street. Drivers should NOT exit their vehicles during drop off or pick up.

If your child needs assistance getting in or out of the vehicle, park your car on a side street and walk with them.

Do NOT allow children to exit the vehicle into the street. They should exit on the curb side ONLY.

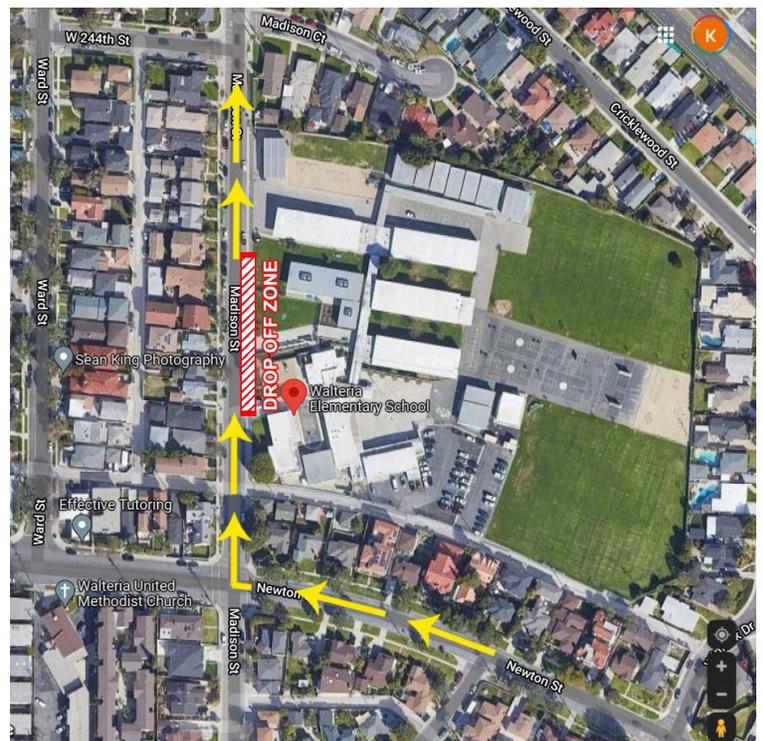
Traffic moves only **ONE WAY** in the drop off/pick up line.

Do NOT back up into the line to parallel park at the curb. Drive forward only, and pull as far forward as you can to make room for others.

DO NOT make a U-Turn across Madison to cut into the line.

If you park facing south on Madison (opposite the school) you MUST walk to one of the crosswalks to cross the street.

Do NOT jaywalk across Madison or send children to do so on their own.



Pedestrian Safety

Our crossing guards are hard at work every day trying to keep everyone safe on their way to and from school. Please follow their cues when crossing the street, and be sure to wait for them to clear the intersection before stepping out into traffic.

Do not park your car too close to the crosswalks. It creates a dangerous lack of visibility for everyone involved – motorists, pedestrians, and the crossing guards.

Jaywalking is not only illegal, it's also extremely dangerous. Only cross the streets at the crosswalks, please!

Keep Our Kids Safe on the Playground

An increasing number of parents have been interacting with their children through the fences during the school day. Of particular concern is the fence line on Madison Street by the YMCA building (near the 1st/2nd grade play area).

This is a safety concern because students are being trained and taught to look towards the fences and interact with individuals on the other side. The school cannot control who is walking by on the street, and it is prudent that our children learn to stay away from the fences at all times.

- Please refrain from calling students to any fence.
- Please stop taking pictures or filming students through any fence.
- Please stop interacting with children through any fence.

The school staff will have to remove the students from their designated playground areas if this continues. Please spread the word to others if you see them doing this!

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.
- ✚ **tracks** local, state, and national policies every day so we can advocate for what's best for our students, families, and schools.
- ✚ **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!



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

January

- 6 PTA Executive Board Meeting @6:30
- 17 MLK Jr Day – NO SCHOOL
- 24-31 Parent Conferences

February

- 1-2 Parent Conferences
- 3 PTA Executive Board Meeting @6:30
- 4 Valentine Grams Sales Begin
- 11 Lincoln's Birthday – NO SCHOOL
- 14 Valentine Grams Distributed
- 21 President's Day – NO SCHOOL
- 24 Walteria STEAM Fair

March

- 1-4 Heroes Week
- 3 District STEAM Fair
- 3 PTA Executive Board Meeting @6:30
- 4 Read Across America Day
- 4 PTA Association Meeting – Time TBD
- 9 Bike Rodeo
- 14-25 APEX Fun Run Activities
- 17 Student Free Day – No School
- 24 Fun Run
- 30-31 At-Risk Conferences

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.

Our PTA website has many helpful links, calendars, volunteer forms, and more!

[Click here to check it out!](#)

Directory

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