

WHAT'S UP, WALTERIA?

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

Happy Valentine's Day!

A Message from the President



Howdy, Wildcats! I hope we're all hanging in there, staying healthy, and having fun! It's finally February, which means it's time for Valentine's Day! This year we ARE going to be able to send in cards and little treats for the class like before, which I'm sure everyone is going to be very excited about! And our Valentine Grams sale is starting as I write this message, and we should be very well-prepared to meet any possible demand with our inventory this time around! Details on that sale are on page 4.

The STEAM fair is also coming up this month, so it's probably time to start working on those projects! As before, if you need any clarification or assistance, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or to Dr. Ponce.

The PTA Nominating Committee has prepared our election slate for 2022-2023 based on the results from the straw ballot submissions, and our Honorary Service Award committee has chosen their honorees for this school year as well. We are asking all PTA members to please join us for a brief virtual Association Meeting on March 3rd at 6:15 PM to elect the officers for the coming year and announce the recipients of our Honorary Service Awards. This will be a Zoom meeting and should only last 15-20 minutes, so we hope to have a good percentage of you attend! Visit page 5 for details.

Thank you all, and best wishes for a fabulous February!

--Katrina Hetrick, Walteria PTA President 2021-22

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Start With Hello!

Leading with Kindness

Our Wildcat Student Leaders did an outstanding job of planning "Start With Hello" Week, under the guidance of Ms. Nguyen.

Students enjoyed dressing up on all the various theme days and participating in the "icebreaker" activities that the leadership group prepared to help foster kindness and an inclusive environment for all.

We loved this idea and hope that Start With Hello Week can become an annual event for our school community! Three cheers for Ms. Nguyen and our awesome student leadership team!



PRE-ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

@ COMMPE.PICTAVO.COM

Last Day to Order is February 15th!
Don't Miss Out!

SCHOOL ID: 703202

PRICE: \$30.00/EACH



WALTERIA PTA PRESENTS...

Valentine Grams



Starts 2/3/2022, Ends 02/10/2022

Pencils \$1

Plushies \$3

Valentine Bears \$5

<http://grams.walteriaelementary.org>

Fill out the form online (scan QR code) and pay using the attached envelope. Payments can be sent with your child or made after-school (in front of the school) starting Monday, 2/7/2022. Please send cash (any amount) or a check (\$11 or more ONLY) payable to 'Walteria PTA.'

Thank you!

**Gram items are for student-to-student purchases only.*



PTA Association Meeting and 2022-2023 Officer Election

Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 @ 6:15 PM on Zoom

All PTA Members are encouraged to attend!

A link to register for the Zoom meeting will be sent out via eBlast as the date approaches.

The Election Slate is as follows:

President	Katrina Hetrick
EVP	Wendy Ferrigno
1st VP	Ruth Tanouye
2nd VP	Sowmya Chigarapalle
3rd VP	Jill Bickel
4th VP	Sara Means
5th VP	Tiffany Taylor
6th VP	Diane Safah
Recording Secretary	Judi Maylone
Treasurer	Araseli Bucher
Financial Secretary	Stacie Watling
Auditor	Hairim Yoon
Historian	Jinyi Hahn
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Masi



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](#).



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.

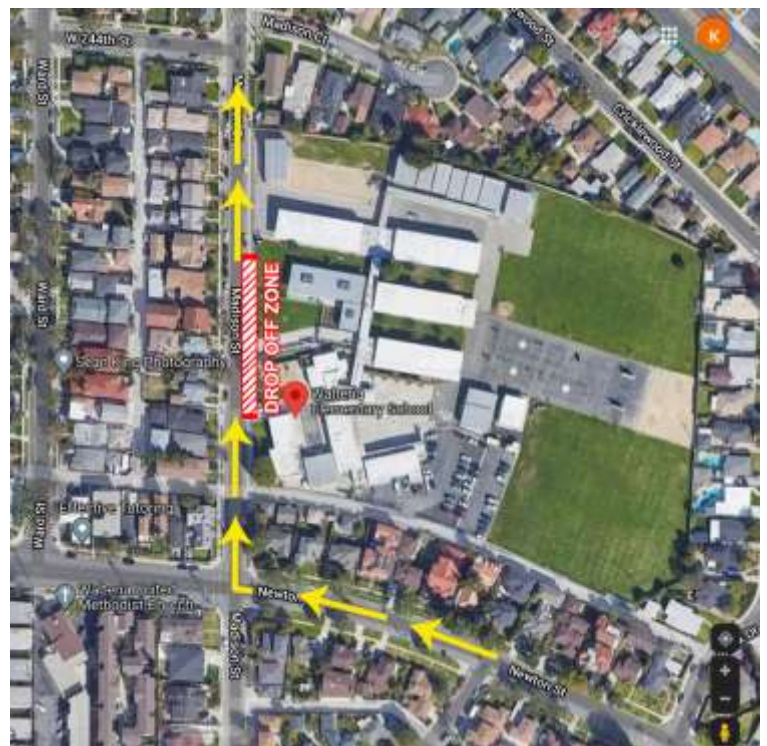
Traffic moves only **ONE WAY** in the drop off/pick up line.

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

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 Association Meeting @ 6:15
- 3 PTA Executive Board Meeting @ 6:30
- 4 Read Across America Day
- 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

- President Katrina Hetrick
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- 2nd VP Sowmya Chigarapalle
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