

WHAT'S UP, WALTERIA?

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

Fun Times Ahead!

A Message from the President



Hello, Wildcats! We're halfway through April, and hopefully we're all feeling recharged from a week of Spring Break! I'm excited that the next couple of months are filling up with activities and events for our school community. The big event that we have currently on our campus is the APEX Fun Run program, which is our final major fundraiser for the PTA this year. We hope that

everyone is able to reach out to their personal networks to gather those pledges for our kids and help us make it to that final fundraising target for the year. APEX makes this whole process so easy for us and provides really valuable lessons and activities for the kids at the same time, so we are pleased to be able to partner with them again this year.

Also in this issue: the recipients of our annual PTA awards! We love our volunteers and are happy to have this small way to recognize some of the folks who stand out and make a big difference at our school.

As I write this, I know that many of our students are working on submitting video clips for a Virtual Talent Show that will be debuting soon (the deadline has been extended to April 22nd!), our Musical Theater program is wrapping up their first unit and filming the dances to show our families, and we're starting to get plans in place for our first art show since 2019! Spring is always a busy time on campus, but we're excited to have so many activities up and running for our kids.

Next month we'll be hosting a Family Fun Dance Night, and our committee is hard at work getting all of the plans for that together, so we hope that you'll join us and bust a move with your kiddos!

--Katrina Hetrick, Walteria PTA President 2021-22

Inside This Issue

Message from the President	1
APEX Fun Run Kickoff	2
Bike Rodeo Winners	3
PTA Award Recipients	4-6
Running Club	6
Earth Week	7
Talent Show Info	8
Family Dance	9
Membership Information	9
NEW COVID Testing Hours/Locations	10
Traffic Procedures	11
Upcoming Events	12
Quick Links/Directory	12

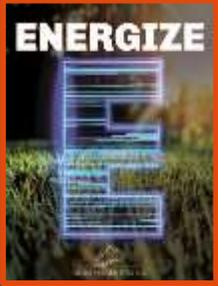
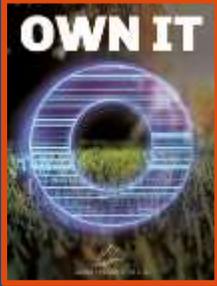
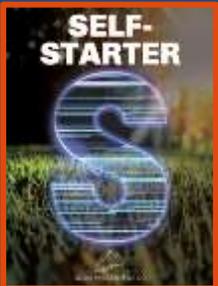
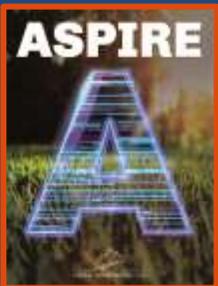


Apex Fun Run Kickoff

Building Leaders

Apex is here, and our kids got to enjoy a kickoff pep rally with our school's team – Boulder Brendyn, Mr. T, and Spidion! Over the course of two weeks, they'll learn about different leadership habits and participate in character building activities in their classrooms as they collect pledges and prepare for the Fun Run on Thursday, April 21st. In addition to contributing to their fundraising efforts, you can help support your student by sharing their Apex pledge page with your network, asking them what they learned with the team each day, and cheering them on when they run!

Log in to your student's Apex page by visiting:
myapexevent.com
 and use the access code that came with their lanyard.





Bike Rodeo Recap

Making Safety Fun!

The annual Bike Rodeo returned to the Walteria campus this year under the direction of parent volunteer Mark Redman, and we're proud to report that it was a huge success! Officer Scott from TPD joined us to demonstrate the drills for the kids, and volunteers from the Beach Cities Cycling Club were on site to help set up the course, run the drills, and assist with bike maintenance as needed for the participants. We are so grateful for their help and expertise, and we hope that they'll be able to partner with us again in the future!

The top two boys and girls in each grade level are invited to participate in the District Bike Rodeo on May 7th. Congratulations to our Wildcats!



Winners

3rd Grade

- 1st Place Boy – Luke Cho
- 1st Place Girl – Aahana Utchil
- 2nd Place Boy – Ahmed Mufti
- 2nd Place Girl – Avy Tsang

4th Grade

- 1st Place Boy – Bhuvan Piddanagoudra
- 1st Place Girl – Adeena Khan
- 2nd Place Boy – Zain Kanjee

5th Grade

- 1st Place Boy – Josiah Cheng
- 1st Place Girl – Emily Suh
- 2nd Place Boy – Liam Sumner
- 2nd Place Girl – Kana Usuda



2021-2022 PTA Award Recipients

Each year, the PTA recognizes a few individuals who have made a remarkable contribution of their time and effort to the PTA and the Walteria community. The Honorary Service Awards, Very Special Person Awards, and Golden Paw Awards are presented to these valued volunteers in recognition of their service to our school. Thank you and congratulations to all of our 2021-22 recipients!



Honorary Service Award – Wendy Ferrigno

This year Wendy is the Executive Vice President of the PTA. Throughout her time at Walteria she also served as the Treasurer for two years and the Auditor for a year after that. Wendy's keen insight into all things financial makes her a huge asset to our PTA, and she goes above and beyond her role as the EVP to make sure Walteria's Treasurer, Auditor, and Financial Secretary are well-trained and prepared to handle all of their responsibilities. She has a phenomenal memory for details and knows the intricacies of our bylaws, and her organizational skills are unmatched. Wendy's dedication to our school library throughout the years has been very valuable for the Walteria community. She spent many hours every week coordinating volunteers, organizing inventory, fixing the database, cataloging new books, and doing anything that needed to be done to make it run smoothly. Our students have all benefited tremendously from Wendy's efforts to make our school a better place, which she has certainly succeeded in doing.

Honorary Service Award – Inge Iskandar Kroon

Inge has been instrumental in shaping the yearbook into the treasure trove of memories it represents for the Walteria students and their families. She lovingly designs the pages to make the content come alive, reaches out to parents and teachers to allow them to be part of the creation by including photos with meaning to them, coordinates with the yearbook publisher to ensure the finished product is available on time, and guides a group of parents who volunteer for the arduous task of arranging student photos for each class. Most astoundingly is that the yearbook is a project Inge dedicates time to throughout the entire year, on top of being an engaged and devoted mom. We hope Inge knows how much her commitment has meant to so many throughout the years. Her creation is timeless and a most cherished possession; it is a snapshot of an extraordinary moment in time for all who dwell in its pages.





Very Special Person Award – Jennifer Cassidy

Despite her very busy schedule as a veterinarian, Jennifer has always made the time to be an instrumental part of the Walteria community. Since the start, she has served as an Adventures in Art docent, and she went above and beyond by building display pieces for the art show. She has been on the PTA board since 2017 in a variety of different positions - VP of Programs, VP of Hospitality, and Parliamentarian. She is a calm and gentle person who never complains and always follows through on her commitments.

Very Special Person Award – Jae Kim

A constant feature on the PTA board for many years, Jae is an involved parent who is an asset to the Walteria community. He has served as a Room Parent for multiple years, making the effort to show up and plan class celebrations and activities. In his time on the board, he has been our VP of Ways and Means, our Auditor, and our VP of Health and Welfare, and he has coordinated our Box Tops fundraising for many years. Jae has been a friendly face around our school for many years and we will miss him as he moves on next year.



Very Special Person Award – Tiffany Taylor

Tiffany began working with the PTA in 2018 when she chaired the Back to School Luncheon and coordinated Read Across America day. In 2020 she joined the board as our VP of Hospitality, and despite the challenges of the pandemic, she has done an exceptional job of planning safe and socially-distanced celebrations for the teachers and staff members, substituting individual boxed lunches for our traditional catered buffet meals. She sourced our current vendor for Spirit Wear and coordinates that sale multiple times a year for our school, and most recently she was instrumental in the planning, sale, and execution of our huge Valentine Grams fundraiser. In addition to all of this, Tiffany is also a long-time Adventures in Art docent and has served as a room parent multiple times. Tiffany is a go-getter, someone who works hard to make sure things are done right, and you can always count on her to follow through.

Very Special Person Award – Ray Wong

Ray initially became an Adventures in Art docent mid-year when the docent in his son's class moved away and he took over her position. Since then, he has served as the Supply Chair for Adventures in Art for two years, and this year he took on the position of Adventures in Art Chair. This year, due to all of the pandemic changes at our school sites, this means that Ray is responsible for organizing and facilitating on-site training for all of our AIA docents in addition to all of his other duties as the chair. This is a lot of extra work to manage, and Ray has done an exceptional job of it. He is organized and thoughtful, and his communication to the AIA team is clear and detailed. Many of our docents this year are brand new to the program and never had the opportunity to experience AIA pre-Covid, and Ray's training workshops have been instrumental in making them feel comfortable enough to teach their classes effectively.





Golden Paw Award – Araseli Bucher

Araseli was our Recording Secretary for one year in 2019 before work obligations made her step away from the board. After a one-year hiatus, she returned to us and agreed to take on the very difficult job of Treasurer for 2021-22. The Treasurer of the PTA is expected to manage and balance the budget carefully and correctly and make sure that all checks are paid and financial records are impeccably kept, and Araseli has done an excellent job of it so far this year. We appreciate her dedication to our organization and appreciate her contributions to the PTA board.

Golden Paw Award – Ann Lee, Project LEAD

Ann Lee is a Deputy District Attorney and has been a Project LEAD instructor at Walteria for the past 3 years. Ann comes in to the class weekly for 20 weeks during the school year and leads students in lessons regarding the court system and making positive life choices to help them achieve their goals. During at home learning, Ann continued to do Project LEAD virtually and was one of the highlights of the students' week while at home learning. Ann does not get paid to do this and has to take time out of her busy workday to come to school and present to the students. She is a great role model and has inspired many students to think about careers in the law field.



Walteria Running Club is Back!

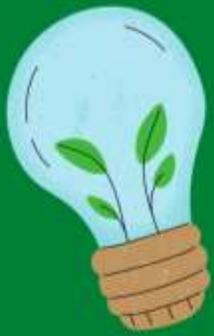
Do you enjoy running? Would you like to get more exercise?

Join us before school for an informal running club right on campus! All you need is a water bottle, running shoes, and a positive attitude. All students are welcome. Parent supervision required for TK-K. Parents can run, too! We will meet every Friday at 8:00 AM.

Please contact Ann Gerlach at carothersann@hotmail.com with any questions or to volunteer to help.



WALTERIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTS



EARTH WEEK



April 18-22, 2022

MONDAY

4/18

Go GREEN

Wear green to show your commitment to caring for our earth!

TUESDAY

4/19

Be Bright,

Turn Off The Lights

Wear bright, neon colors!

WEDNESDAY

4/20

Crazy for the World

Wear crazy hair or mismatched socks!



THURSDAY

4/21

Pair Up with Nature

Dress alike with your friends!

FRIDAY

4/22

Save the Oceans

Wear blue or Hawaiian theme!

(Spring Picture Day: spirit wear optional or students may bring a change of clothes)

Complete a Scavenger Hunt for a prize!

Share your Earth Week photos to:

<https://forms.gle/SQNwRkN6jbyFwRjCA>

Attention all Wildcats!

Walteria is showcasing your talents this year in a

VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW!

The 2022 Talent Show will be shared using a digital form as our “stage” again this year. The entire school will be able to enjoy the performances from their own homes with their loved ones!

This is your opportunity to be as creative as you want to be. You can let your imagination soar as you film your segment in a unique location, with props, costume changes, or whatever else you can think of. You can even involve your pets! Think outside the box and showcase what you love to do!

If you would like your act included,
fill out the form linked below and attach a video of you performing.

Be sure your video meets the following criteria:

- All acts must be no longer than one minute in length
- Your attire must be school appropriate
- If you are using music, all the lyrics must be school appropriate
- Pay attention to what is going on in the background during your video
- Anyone appearing in the video must be listed on the registration form

If your video does not meet all of these requirements,
you will be notified and allowed one resubmission to correct any concerns.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SUBMISSION FORM](#)

(You must use the student's TUSD account to log in and submit the form)

***** No submissions will be accepted after Friday, April 22nd *****

Please direct any questions to Miss Calhoun at calhoun.kelly@tUSD.org

Save the date!

FAMILY DANCE PARTY

@ WALTERIA ELEMENTARY

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

Details coming soon!



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!



COVID-19 TESTING

TUSD is offering free COVID-19 testing for students and employees with proof of insurance.

Testing is available at Torrance High ONLY at this time.

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 for your convenience.

Testing Hours:

Testing is available Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Torrance High School.

Testing location may be closed for lunch between 1:00-1:30 pm

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. Results will be emailed to you, typically within 48 hours.

Testing site address:

(click the link to open a campus map showing the test site location)

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

If an individual submits an FDA-authorized Over-the-Counter test, the employee, parent, or guardian must provide the signed [digital attestation form](#) confirming that the test was administered properly. After submitting the attestation form with results of a positive test, employees must contact their supervisors and students must report to the school office, for clearance to return to work/school.

***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.

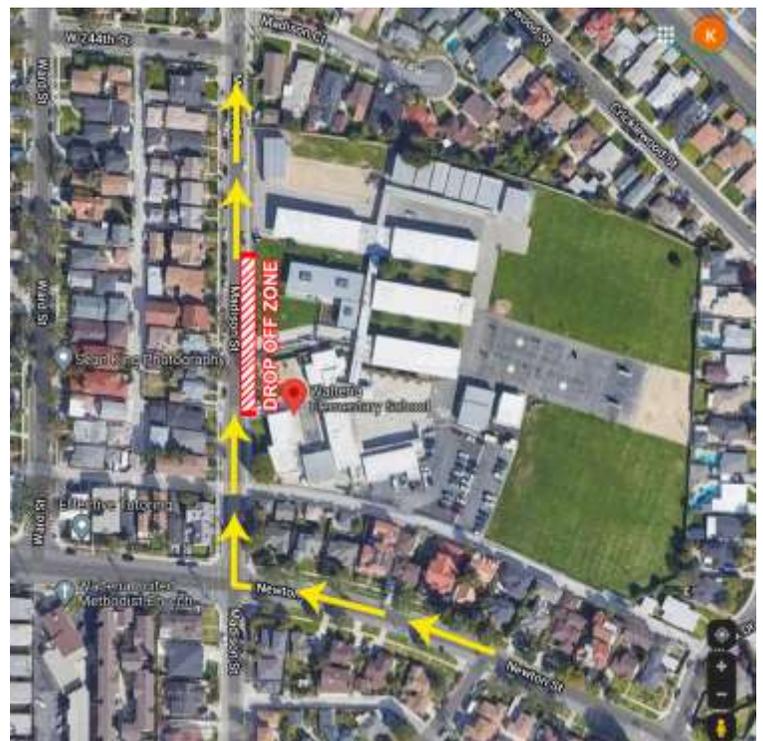
Traffic moves only **ONE WAY** in the drop off/pick up line.

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!



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

April

- 1 At-Risk Conferences
- 4-8 Spring Break
- 14 CAASPP Meeting @ Walteria 6:00
- 14 PTA Executive Board Meeting @ 7:30
- 11-22 APEX Fun Run Activities
- 21 Fun Run
- 18-22 Earth Week

May

- 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 2-6 Spring Book Fair
- 5 PTA Executive Board Meeting @ 6:30
- 7 District Bike Rodeo
- 20 Family Dance
- 16-27 Grades 3-5 State Testing
- 30 Memorial Day – No School

June

- 2 Portfolio Day/Art Show
- 2 PTA Association Meeting
- 2 PTA Executive Board Meeting @ 6:30
- 15 5th Grade Promotion
- 16 Last Day of School

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
ptapres@walteriaelementary.org
- Executive VP Wendy Ferrigno
ptavp@walteriaelementary.org
- 1st VP Ruth Tanouye
waysnmeans@walteriaelementary.org
- 2nd VP Sowmya Chigarapalle
communications@walteriaelementary.org
- 3rd VP Tiffany Taylor
hospitality@walteriaelementary.org
- 4th VP Sara Means
programs@walteriaelementary.org
- 5th VP Jae Kim
healthnwelfare@walteriaelementary.org
- 6th VP Diane Safah-Kanjee
specialevents@walteriaelementary.org
- Rec. Secretary Judi Maylone
secretary@walteriaelementary.org
- Treasurer Araseli Bucher
treasurer@walteriaelementary.org
- Financial Sec. Stacie Watling
financialsec@walteriaelementary.org
- Auditor Hairim Yoon
auditor@walteriaelementary.org
- Historian Jinyi Hahn
historian@walteriaelementary.org
- Parliamentarian Jennifer Cassidy
parliamentarian@walteriaelementary.org
- Principal Efren Ponce
Ponce.efren@tusd.org
- Teacher Reps Christine Buchalla
Buchalla.christine@tusd.org
 Kelly Calhoun
Calhoun.kelly@tusd.org
 Rebecca Masi
Masi.rebecca@tusd.org
 Maria Ruth
Ruth.maria@tusd.org