

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



Welcome back, Wildcat families! I hope that everyone had a lovely summer break. Our family was excited to finally travel again for the first time in a few years. It's a little surreal to return to Walteria this year with just two of my three little ones because my oldest has moved on to Middle School, but we are navigating the dual drop-offs and pick-ups as best we can.

The PTA is thrilled to welcome Ms. Guidi, our new principal, and we look forward to having her as a partner in all of our efforts this year. As you know, 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 2022-23

Inside This Issue

- Message from the President 1
- Meet the Principal 2
- First Day Fun! 2
- Meet the PTA Board 3 – 4
- Direct Donation Campaign 5
- Spirit Wear/Book Fair 6
- Volunteer Opportunities 7 - 8
- PTA Reflections 2022-23 9
- Importance of Membership 10
- Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures 11
- Upcoming Events 12
- Quick Links/Directory 12



Meet The Principal!



It is with great excitement that I get to introduce myself as the new principal of Walteria Elementary School. This year marks my 20th year as an educator, and I am honored to join this extraordinary school community. While my years of experience include many years of classroom experience, it is my work as a school administrator that I have found to be ultimately fulfilling. Throughout my time serving districts in both Los Angeles and Orange County, I always look to the entire school community as key stakeholders that support our mission. Specifically, the elementary principalship provides me the opportunity to remain connected to young learners and also build partnership between home and school. That is why I am so excited to begin my 20th year as a PTA member, and be a part of one of the many foundations that bring added enrichment to the Walteria educational experience. As I begin my tenure, I cannot wait to work alongside the parents and community members to make it a great year for our Wildcats.

--Suzanne Guidi, Walteria Elementary Principal

First Day Fun!

Our beloved Wildcat mascot was on campus to greet students on our first day back, and our PTA volunteers arranged for some beautiful balloon art and yard signs to decorate the campus. We hope everyone got some great pictures!



Meet Your 2022-23 PTA Executive Board



**President
Katrina Hetrick**

This is Katrina's second and final year as the PTA President at Walteria. She has also served as VP of Programs and Adventures in Art chair, and is currently on the AIA executive board. She has two 4th graders, Glenn and Caroline, and one 6th grader at Richardson, Grant.



**Executive Vice
President
Wendy Ferrigno**

This is Wendy's 5th 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 daughters, Kaitlynn and Allie, are in 5th and 6th 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 5th year on the PTA Board. She has a 5th and a 6th grader. Go Wildcats!



**2nd Vice President
Communications
Sowmya Chigarapalle**

This is Sowmya's second year on the PTA board and she has been a classroom volunteer for the last few years. She is looking forward to putting together a fun year for the kids. She has two kids, in TK and 4th grade, at Walteria this year.



**3rd Vice President
Hospitality
Jill Bickel**

This is Jill's first year on the PTA Board. Last year she was an AIA docent and has recently become our Book Fair Chair. She loves all things Harry Potter and Friends. Her daughter Lucy (2nd) is excited to see her mom on campus, and Chandler (preschool) can't wait to be a Wildcat next year.



**4th Vice President
Programs
Sara Means**

Sara served on the PTA Board as the VP of Programs last year and is happy to be back. Before that, she served as the Adventures in Art Chair for two years. She has a third grader, Owen, and a 6th grader, Connor, at Richardson Middle School.



**5th Vice President
Health & Welfare
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 5th grade this year and loves being a Wildcat. This is her fifth year on the PTA and she loves giving back to the community.



**6th Vice President
Special Events
Diane Safah-Kanje**

This is Diane's second year on the PTA board. She has previously been a docent and a chair for the Adventures in Art program. Diane has two Wildcats, Zain (5th) and Maya (3rd) and a recent South High graduate, Mario. She is looking forward to a great year on the PTA!



**Recording Secretary
Judi Maylone**

Judi is starting her second year on the PTA board. She has been part of the Wildcat Family since 2014. Her younger son is in 2nd grade and her older son is in 8th 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, then took on the position of treasurer in 2021. This is her final year on the Walteria PTA, as her son Beau is now in the 5th grade.



**Financial Secretary
Stacie Watling**

Stacie is starting her second year as the PTA's Financial Secretary. She also volunteers as a Room Parent and is the treasurer for her daughter's Girl Scout troop. Her wildcat, Kynsie, is entering into 4th grade.



**Auditor
Hairim Yoon**

Hairim is the auditor for the PTA. It has been great working with the wonderful and passionate PTA members last year, and she hopes that we can make a difference for our school and children. Her Wildcat Chloe Lee is in 2nd grade, and her daughter Olivia Lee is in 6th grade at Richardson.



**Historian
Jinyi Hahn**

Jinyi (pronounced Jeannie) has been on the PTA board for three years as the financial secretary and historian. This is her final year on the PTA at Walteria. She is mom to Claire in 5th grade, wife of Frank, and lives with a 4 year-old multipoo, Tango.



**Parliamentarian
Ali Haehnel**

Ali is in her first year as parliamentarian. She works full-time in the youth sports industry and enjoys impacting kids' lives on and off the playing field. Her eldest son, Nolan, is a 2nd grader at Walteria and youngest, Walker (4), cannot wait to become a Wildcat ASAP!



**Teacher Rep
Upper Grades
Rebecca Masi**

Rebecca has been with TUSD for 29 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
Brittney Robison**

Brittney has been teaching 5th grade at Walteria for 8 years. She has one little wildcat in TK this year and a two year old at home. When she's not busy chasing them around, she enjoys golfing or relaxing in her backyard with her husband.



**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 26 years in TUSD. She has been a member of PTA and part of the Walteria family for 19 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.



**Teacher Rep
Upper Grades
Melissa Ruparatne**

Melissa is a fifth grade teacher at Walteria. She is on the PTA board at Richardson and is helping out this year as one of our Upper Grade Teacher Representatives. She is looking forward to a great year with all of her students!



**Room Parent Coordinator
Rachelle Sudario**

Hello Walteria Family! My name is Rachelle Sudario, and I'm the Room Parent Coordinator this year. I have a daughter, Emily Monzon, who is currently a 3rd grader. My son, Adam Monzon, will start Kindergarten in the fall of 2023. I'm excited to be part of the PTA for the first time. I've seen all the amazing things Walteria's PTA has put together for our kids and I'm looking forward to contributing in any way.

WALTERIA PTA DIRECT DONATION 2022-2023

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 **tax-deductible**, and it **promotes school spirit** and **builds community**.



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

For questions or to inquire about Employer Matching, 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:

- a Walteria tote bag
- a Walteria lanyard
- a Walteria car decal
- a set of Walteria pencils
- one 2022-2023 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 magnet
- an exclusive Wildcat school experience
- special family recognition on the Walteria Direct Donation yearbook page



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:

- exclusive Walteria Wildcats T-shirt ONLY available for this fundraiser
- your student's name(s) printed on our Direct Donation school banner
- reserved seating at PTA activities throughout the year



ALL DONATIONS

A commemorative Walteria button to show off your PTA support is included with any amount donated!

Walteria's **Spirit Wear Shop** will be open once again for orders between

8/30/22 - 9/12/22

Don't miss this chance to show off your Wildcat pride!

Get your orders in ASAP!



<http://spiritwear.walteriaelementary.org>

Orders will arrive approximately two weeks after the shop closes.

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIRS
Books bring us together!

ART © 2021 BY GABRIELA EPSTEIN. TM© SCHOLASTIC INC. | OWL DIARIES ART © REBECCA ELLIOTT

Shop Walteria's Scholastic Book Fair
from 2:00 – 4:00 PM after school in Room 30
Monday 9/12/22 through Friday 9/16/22

*Students in the After School Club or YMCA are welcome to shop;
they will need to bring cash or have an eWallet set up in advance*

Can't make it in person? [Click here to shop online!](#)
Online book orders over \$25 ship directly to your home for free



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 chair, Ray Wong, at adventuresinart@walteriaelementary.org.

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.

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. They also coordinate with the class's Yearbook Volunteer to make sure photos are being submitted on a regular basis.

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

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

Ask your teacher about volunteering as a classroom librarian or email

librarian@walteriaelementary.org for more information.

Yearbook Volunteer

A Yearbook Volunteer is needed for each classroom to help gather photos from parents after school and classroom events and help arrange them for the school's yearbook. No experience necessary, and this is a job that can easily be done after-hours at home! Make sure that your class has full representation in the yearbook.

Contact walteriayearbook@gmail.com if you are interested in being a class yearbook volunteer!

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

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

Reflections is Coming Soon! Start Preparing Your Entries!



2022-2023

CALL FOR ENTRIES!

SHOW YOUR VOICE!

Learn more and get involved!

[PTA.org/Reflections](https://pta.org/reflections)

EXPLORE THE ARTS AND EXPRESS YOURSELF!



DANCE
CHOREOGRAPHY



FILM
PRODUCTION



LITERATURE



MUSIC
COMPOSITION



PHOTOGRAPHY



VISUAL ARTS

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 2022-2023 Reflections theme is "Show Your Voice!"

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 14, 2022.

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



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!

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.

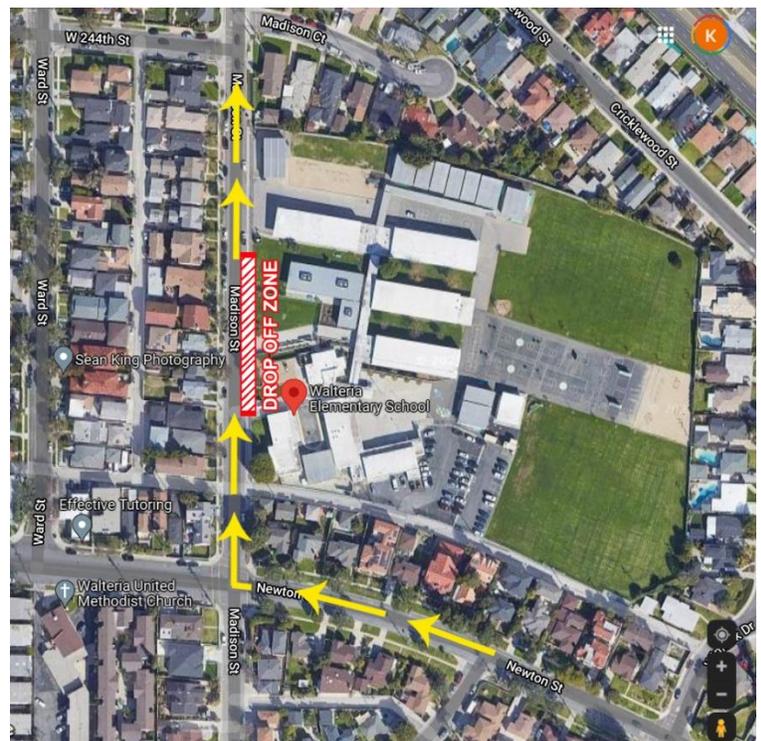
Traffic moves only **ONE WAY** in the drop off/pick up line.

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

August

- 23 Popsicles at the Park (TK/K Families)
- 24 Welcome Back School Staff Luncheon
- 25 First Day of School
- 25 New Parent Breakfast
- 30 Coffee with the Principal

September

- 1 PTA Executive Board Meeting
- 5 Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- 8 Back to School Night (6-7:30 PM)
- 8 PTA Association Meeting (6:30 PM)
- 12-16 Fall Book Fair
- 16 Picture Day
- 27 Coffee with the Principal
- 30 Running Club Begins

October

- 4 Walk to School Day
- 5 Student Free Day – NO SCHOOL
- 6 PTA Executive Board Meeting
- 14 PTA Reflections Entries Due
- 20-21 At-Risk Parent Conferences
- 24-28 Red Ribbon Week
- 28 Fall Carnival/Trunk or Treat
- 30 Skechers Friendship Walk
- 31 Halloween Parade
- 31 Direct Donation Drive Ends

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
1 st VP	Ruth Tanouye waysnmeans@walteriaelementary.org
2 nd VP	Sowmya Chigarapalle communications@walteriaelementary.org
3 rd VP	Jill Bickel hospitality@walteriaelementary.org
4 th VP	Sara Means programs@walteriaelementary.org
5 th VP	Tiffany Taylor healthnwelfare@walteriaelementary.org
6 th 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	Ali Haehnel parliamentarian@walteriaelementary.org
Principal	Suzanne Guidi Guidi.Suzanne@tusd.org
Teacher Reps	Christine Buchalla Buchalla.Christine@tusd.org Kelly Calhoun Calhoun.Kelly@tusd.org Rebecca Masi Masi.Rebecca@tusd.org Brittney Robison Robison.Brittney@tusd.org
Room Parent Coordinator	Rachelle Sudario roomparents@walteriaelementary.org