Letter from the Principal

Dear Walker Parents/Guardians,

The December calendar is filling up quickly with activities and programs at Walker Intermediate School. We hope that you can join us for one or more of our programs as our teaching staff and students share their many talents.

Tuesday, December 4 (7 p.m.) SHJH & HW Strings Concert at SHJH
Monday, December 10 (7 p.m.) HW Holiday Program (Wildcat Choir, Orff Ensemble)
Thursday, December 13 (7 p.m.) HW Fifth Grade-Beginning Band Concert
Monday, December 17 (7 p.m.) HW Wildcat Sixth Grade Band Concert

Sincerely,
Mr. Michael Ruffalo, Principal
mruffalo@summithill.org

Mrs. Dana Wright, Assistant Principal
dwright@summithill.org

IF YOU RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL…you are on the District 161/Walker School emailing list. If not, please email Mr. Michael Ruffalo ASAP and he will add you to our emailing list so you can receive important school notices quickly (and paperless!)

If you do not have access to email, we will continue to send school notices home with your child.

Michael Ruffalo, Principal
Walker Intermediate School
mruffalo@summithill.org

General Information

Hilda Walker Intermediate School
19900 S. 80th Avenue
Tinley Park, Illinois 60487
Phone: 815-464-2285

Student Attendance Hours: 8:20 A.M. to 2:50 P.M.
School Office Hours: 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Teacher Attendance Hours: 8:10 A.M. to 3:10 P.M.

For your information…
The after school activities end @ 4:00, unless otherwise noted.

Important Dates
12/4 – Strings Concert 7:00 p.m. @SHJH
12/5 – Club/Team Pictures (8:30-11:00 a.m.)
12/6 – HWSCO Cookie Dough Pick-up @3-5 pm (MPR)
HWSCO Meeting (3 p.m.)
12/7 – HWSCO Treat Day
12/10 – 5th Grade Field Trip to Museum of Science and Industry
Choir/Orff Concert (7:00 p.m.)
12/13 – Beginning Band Concert (7:00 p.m.)
12/14 – HWSCO Hot Lunch (Pizza Mia’s Chicken Strips)
12/17 – 6th Grade Wildcat Band Concert (7:00 p.m.)
12/24 – 1/6/12 – Winter Break

Parent-School Contact Procedure Flow:

1. First, contact the teacher.
2. If you want to schedule a conference, please call or email the teacher to make an appointment to address your concerns.
3. If you need further assistance after you have had a conference (or phone conference) with the teacher, then contact the principal or assistant principal.
Hilda Walker News

Hilda Walker's 13th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony

Walker's 14th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony was a great success with the students and staff giving 90 veterans an arousing warm welcome. Thank you to all who helped to make it so successful, especially our SCO and Walker teachers for helping to provide the luncheon. The staff is very proud of those students who volunteered to participate in the ceremony. These students were: Honor Guard POW/MIA Table: Amanda Lindsey, Cayla Truell, Victoria Puttkammer, Kayla Luke, Faith Bromann, and Zach Jung. Flag Team: Carlos Garcia, Carter Graham, Joel Greenberg, Jonathan Miller, Sam Karas, Ryan O'Donnell, and Nick Pozza. Readers were: Daniela Valencia, Carter Sheehan, Brandon Rusinak, Chloe Langer, and Emily Jacob. The students who were in the escorting team, the coat checkers, greeters, and hosts were wonderful hosts for our guest veterans. Our fantastic guest speaker was a Viet Nam Veteran, Retired Colonel Constance Edwards, United States Army. Colonel Edwards served as a nurse while in Viet Nam. She continued to serve our country for 26 years. Walker School was able to obtain a flag that was flown over the Women’s’ Memorial in Washington D.C.

Walker Hosts Area Veterans

Walker Intermediate School students hosted area Veterans at an annual assembly honoring them on November 9, 2012. Walker teacher Pam Tucker started the event by presenting the Veterans to the staff and students, and enlightened the students with examples of just how our “Veterans have protected our freedoms earned by our forefathers in the American Revolution.” Over 90 Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Peace time, and Middle East Conflicts attended the event, ate lunch with the students and visited classrooms during the day. Key Note Speaker was Retired Colonel Constance Edwards, a Viet Nam veteran. Veterans shared their military experiences and answered questions from students.

Veterans from Tinley Park VFW Post #2791 presented and retired colors. Walker student Miss Daniela Valencia welcomed the veterans; Mrs. Jessica Klein, daughter of staff member, Mrs. Gail Klein sang the “Star Spangled Banner” after everyone had said the “Pledge of Allegiance.” A table was set representing all soldiers who are missing in action. Students read poems and stories about Veterans. The Wildcat Choir sang “Gaudeamus Day” by Natalie Sleeth, directed by music teacher Jill Lewkow. The Sixth Grade Wildcat Band played “Excelia” with band teacher Jason Collins conducting. Readers that shared various poems and welcomes were Daniela Valencia, Carter Sheehan, Brandon Rusinak, Chloe Langer, and Emily Jacob. Former Superintendent Dr. Julian Rogus and the Flag Folding Team of Scouts held a flag folding ceremony, while Bob Gaines, former Walker principal read “I Am An American” accompanied by Mr. Scott Wagstaff. Mrs. Stephanie Delgrosso set the tone for taps by reading “The Spirit of the American Soldier”.


**Computer Club Begins in January**

Students who want to learn how to use the digital camera, scanner, edit digital photos or use programs like Publisher, Excel, Movie Maker and more are invited to join the Computer Club. Meetings will be on Wednesdays after school beginning January 9, 2013. **Computer Club is limited to the first 30 students to sign up.** If interested, get a Computer Club Flyer from Mrs. Fisher, Room 129, or download one from Walker’s Extracurricular Activity webpage.

**Speech Team**

Congratulations to the Walker Speech Team! On Saturday, November 10th, all the hard work paid off as the team went to contest at Peotone Junior High School. Participating team members were Jordan Bruni, Katy Catrone, Frankie Ferneau, Mark Gardner, Nathaniel Hartman, Courtney Hill, Jenna Mashin, Taylor Mondragon, Elyse Skolek, Morgan Tripi, Nicole Zralka. They did an outstanding job on their performances, with several team members bringing home a rating of one to earn themselves a medal. Their hard work and dedication paid off and we had an amazing season.

**Video Club at Work**

Video Club members have been trained to use the video camera and edit their film. They are now ready to work on projects. Adrian Gutiérrez de Velasco and Kea Roppolo are shown in the photos videotaping the Walker Veterans Day Assembly. It will be shown on Frankfort TV Channel 6.

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**Weather**

With December upon us, this is a good time to review your safety plan for cold weather, winter storms, etc. There is a Publication called Winter Storm Preparedness from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency that you can access on their web site: [www.state.il.us/jema](http://www.state.il.us/jema).
**Student Council News**

We have a new Student Council group this year, voted in by their fellow peers on Election Day! Congratulations to the following students: Megan Bucich, Morgan Grove, Julianna Bryant, Michael Neumann, Kylie Bjes, Annie Brits, Madison Johnson, Dominic Tobin, Scott Collins, Jackson Driver, Jillian Jackson, Malyna Barnas, Audrey Zednick, Jocelyn Lounsbury, Bessie Zhang, Jaz Culppepper, Maggie Sylvester, Kevin Brown, Mia LaMantia, Jack Dugan, Emily Grice, Maddie Grobmeier, Noah Marron, Luke Kordas, Alli Coulson, Angela Juskie, Reese Burghard, Alyssa Messana, Cassidy Tanner, and Jake Lukacek!

During the week of December 12th, the student council will sell our WinterGrams for $1.00 each. These winter greetings will be delivered to our friends by the student council members before we leave school for Winter Break.

Student Council’s first project this year will be the Hat and Mitten Drive! We will be collecting hat and mittens starting **December 3rd through December 14th**. Collection bins will be placed downstairs near the main entrances of our school. All contributions of hat and mittens for the winter season are GREATLY appreciated! Donations will be given to the organization Together We Cope, a homelessness prevention agency located in Tinley Park.

Mrs. Stacey Froeschle and Miss Leah Satalic
s froeschle@summithill.org, lsatalic@summithill.org

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**Safety Patrol News**

Safety Patrol members, Katy Catrone, Elyse Skolek, and Mario Brick work on their Christmas cards for men and women serving in the arm forces overseas. The patrol members have made a commitment to send cards for the holidays throughout the school year. When the patrol meets in December they will be discussing safety during the winter and will be making posters to remind students how to remain safe in the winter especially during the frigid winter days. Safety patrol Nick Siegers will be leading the safety discussions for this project.

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**Hilda Walker SCO News**

**Cookie Dough Fundraisers**

We would like to thank all of the families who have participated in our Cookie Dough fundraisers. We would like to congratulate Mrs. Zitkus’ 5th grade class and Mrs. Rafa’s 6th grade class for being top sellers in their grades. Both have earned Pizza Parties on December 7th during lunch.

Please note that if you sold 3 or less tubs of cookie dough, they will be sent home with your student. For those of you who sold 4 tubs or more of cookie dough, you will need to come to the multi-purpose room after school to pick up your order. Cookie Dough pick-up December 6 @ 3 p.m. in MPR.

**HWSCO Fun Night**

We would like to thank the HWSCO volunteers for sponsoring Fun Night on November 16, 2012 from 7 to 9 p.m. Students enjoyed treats from the concession stand and participated in board games, bingo and many more fun activities in the multipurpose room. Students played lightning basketball and enjoyed the music provided by the DJ in the gym.

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**Chess Club**

Wildcats Chess Club members, Kevin Galassini and Michael Neumann, participated in a chess competition in October. They won 3rd place in the team section. Way to go Kevin & Michael! Checkmate!

Mrs. Johnson, Chess Club Coach
tjohnson@summithill.org
December Art News

6th Grade Walker Artists

The 6th Grade Walker Artists submitted their posters for the Lions International Peace Poster Contest. This year's theme was “Imagine Peace”. The students created a 16”x20” poster that shows what this theme means to them. This year's Frankfort winner was Madelyn Schaefer. This year's runner up was Stephanie Shoaf. Madelyn Schaefer’s poster will be moving on the Lions Club District Governor for further judging.

5th Grade Walker Artists

5th and 6th Grade Walker Artists have been working on a mural for our school entitled “What will you choose?” They started working on a design for it in October and are starting to paint it onto the wall in the middle stairway.

A Second Quarter Art to Remember

Our school, in conjunction with Art to Remember, is offering a program that reproduces your child’s personal artwork onto a variety of colorful products. Some include: magnets, key chains, quilt blocks, beverage insulators, matted prints wall calendars, bookmarks, ceramic mugs, sports towels, mouse pads, heart ceramic ornaments, journals, art sketchbooks, placemats, CD cases, stainless steel travel mugs, pillows, teddy bears with T-shirts, tote bags, ceramic tiles, aprons, and T-shirts.

Your child will create artwork following the art class curriculum. Order forms will go out in January for Second Quarter Art Students.

You will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of products featuring your child’s artwork. You are under no obligation to purchase. However, we believe you will be excited by these unique personal keepsakes and a portion of the proceeds is donated to the Hilda Walker Art Program. They make great gifts for family and friends. We are excited to share this unique art program to promote your child’s art!

Mrs. McCarthy, Art Teacher
amccarthy@summithill.org

Walker Dance Team: 2012-2013

The Walker Wildcat Dance Team would like to dedicate this season to Rachel Swallow! Rachel loves to dance and was a member of the Walker Dance Team last year. We want her to know we are thinking of her this year and carry her love of dance with us as we work hard on a new season. In honor of Rachel, all dance team spirit/performance wear will have the initials RS on top of the “i” in Wildcats. A special thank you to my dance team for wanting to dedicate this year to Rachel!

Rachel – We hold you in our thoughts and hearts, now and always.

Mrs. Stacey Froeschle, Dance Coach
sfroeschle@summithill.org
Girls Basketball

The Hilda Walker Wildcats 5th and 6th grade girls’ basketball team won the Des Plaines Valley Conference basketball tournament on Saturday, November 17 at Spencer Crossing Intermediate School in New Lenox. The girls’ ‘A’ and ‘B’ teams finished with a combined record of 33 wins and 2 losses. The Wildcats opened the tournament on Friday night by defeating Troy Orenic. On Saturday they defeated Mokena in the semifinals and Hickory Creek in the championship game. Hilda Walker’s girls last won this tournament in 2009.

Seated (L-R): Olivia Molnar, Andrea Perch
Kneeling (L-R): Katarina Savic, Reilly Sheehan, Katie Beaudin, Kaitlyn Maksymiak, Ella Jacobson, Lilly Genis, Sydney Nekola

Physical Education News

The last week of October was an exciting and educational one for the students in Hilda Walker. In physical education the students learned about the human skeleton and were active by participating in fall themed physical activities. The game Bone Yard Blitz required students to find, label, and put together bones of the human skeleton. In order to get to the bones, students were physically tested by going through a variety of obstacles. The next activity of the week was an obstacle course. This course consisted of a variety of obstacles that tested and improved muscular and cardiorespiratory endurance. The last activity of the week was The River Cross. The River Cross was a physical and team building challenge that required students to work together to get across the gym only using the equipment provided.

To start the month of November students worked to improve and test their hand eye coordination with the game of pickleball. Pickleball is a game similar to tennis. It is played with paddles, a hard whiffle ball, and nets that are 31 inches high. The United States Pickleball Association estimates there are more than 100,000 active pickleball players in the USA.

Just a reminder, that the Hilda Walker PE Department is collecting Box Tops for Education. The box tops given help to enhance the physical education department at Hilda Walker. Thank you to those families that have contributed.

Parents please help your student remember to complete their PE homework. It is due every Tuesday in their homeroom's PE box. Homework is worth 15% of their overall grade. Downloads to the weekly homework are available on Mr. Acevedo's webpage through the Hilda Walker School website.

Please help remind your students to bring gym shoes on their PE days. The goal of the Walker PE program is to have maximum participation every day.

Martin Acevedo
Physical Education Specialist
815-464-2285
macevedo@summithill.org

Mr. Collins, Girls’ Basketball Coach
jcollins@summithill.org
Holiday Stress and Children
(From keepkidshealthy.com)

Families want their holidays to be special and happy for everyone, especially the children. The holiday season can be a time of hustle and bustle…and a never-ending whirlwind of stress for their children.

You can help your children beat holiday stress by following these tips:

LIMIT TV AND VIDEO GAMES — It's very easy at this time of the year to allow the TV and video games to become the babysitter. But children who are stressed need some type of physical activity or exercise.

REMEMBER ROUTINES — During the holidays children will find their routines disrupted. When a routine is broken, stress can result.

NUTRITION — Did you ever notice the lines at the fast food restaurants as it gets closer to the holidays? They are getting longer because parents typically are too busy to go home and cook a nutritious meal. And factor in all of those sugary holiday treats, and you end up with a stressed out, hungry family. Plan at least one healthy meal as a family every day. And don't forget to toss in a healthy snack while you're visiting the mall.

FAMILY TRADITIONS — Many people fail to underestimate how important traditions are to themselves and their children. Family traditions offer great comfort and security for children when everything in their lives is being disrupted by the holiday season.

ATTITUDE CHECK — Both children and their parents need to have an attitude check before the holiday season begins. Take a deep breath, and have everyone in the family pledge to make the holiday season a time of joy and peace. Remind everyone that with the right attitude, that goal can be met.

REST AND RELAXATION — Everyone, especially children, needs to take a "time out" over the holiday season to rest and relax. A well-rested child will be much happier. Schedule some R & R time for everyone in the family.

The holiday season doesn't have to be a time of stress and exhaustion. Make sure you do your part to make the most wonderful time of the year live up to its reputation. You and your children will be glad you did.

PBIS

PAW Mart is continuing to be a big success in helping to motivate and acknowledge students for following the Walker Way. Prizes available include erasers, bracelets, sunglasses, and small sports balls. A big hit with the students was popcorn during lunch. The last Thursday of the month popcorn will be available for students to buy and eat during lunch.

Motivational speaker, Brett Eastonburn came to speak to the students about his motivational message of No Boundaries and that you can achieve anything. Brett told his story of being born and growing up with no arms and legs. Brett told the students the obstacles he overcame and told some humorous yet serious stories of his struggles and successes growing up. He demonstrated how he can dribble a basketball, throw a football, and draw a picture of Garfield. Brett was a state champion wrestler, played on his basketball team, participated in martial arts, and continues to draw and perform as a comic.

Congratulations!

Two of our very own 6th grade students will be appearing in the Joffrey Academy of Dance production of the Nutcracker at the Auditorium Theatre.

Congratulations to Rachel Newton & Grace Vavrik!
A Good Idea……

Some students need to call home from time to time, a good idea would be to jot down parent’s cell phone numbers and work numbers on a note card. The card can be placed in a small zipper area of your students back pack and will be readily available to them when needed.

In Our Neighborhood

Tinley Park

The Tinley Toyland Parade will step off at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from the Harold Viking Lodge, 6730 West 175th Street, and head north three blocks to Zabrocki Plaza in downtown Tinley Park. The parade will feature school groups, sports teams and school bands in a tribute to Santa’s official arrival to Tinley Park.

Parade of Lights

Downtown Tinley Park is having their 15th annual “Parade of Lights” on Sunday, December 2, 2012. Step-off will be @ 5 p.m.

Frankfort

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday, December 6, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Breidert Green
Kansas & Ash Street
Frankfort, IL

Christkindl

Saturday, December 8 & 9, 2012 from 12 – 4 p.m.
Location: Downtown Frankfort

Visit downtown Frankfort for Christkindl activities throughout the day.

Mrs. Johnson’s 6th Grade Class

For Mrs. Johnson's fall party, students were twisted into a frightening frenzy that had them writhing with delight!

From the Tinley Park Police Department

Illinois law prohibits the use of cell phones while driving in school zones and construction zones. Any person under the age of 19, holding an instruction permit or a graduated Driver’s License, is prohibited from driving a vehicle on a roadway while using a wireless phone. Any person, regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a School Speed Zone, or on a highway in a Construction Zone or Maintenance Speed Zone, and my not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message or “text” message. Don’t Drive In-TEXT-icated.

Effective January 2, 2012, in Illinois all drivers and passengers must be belted in all seating positions; no matter where you sit! Everyone who is over 8 years of age weighs more than 80 pounds and is taller than 4 foot 9 inches must wear a safety belt when in a car, truck or van. Children under the age of 8 must be sitting in a child safety seat or booster seat. People who do not wear their safety belts are 4 times more likely to be thrown out of a vehicle in a crash. All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat. Remember: Buckle Up! Every Trip Every Time! Click It or Ticket It a law you can live with.

Be A Buckle Buddy is a public education program aimed at keeping kids safe in cars. Anyone in Illinois call call 1-888-800-2642 or log onto www.bucklebuddy.org to anonymously report unbuckled kids by giving the license plate number, vehicle description, date, city and county. Owners of reported vehicles get a packet of information about car seat safety and Illinois law.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.
Reminders.....

**Buses:**
In order to provide safe transportation for all of our students, children must ride the same bus to and from school each day. They will not be able to switch buses without written permission from the school office. Permission will only be granted for emergencies, which do not include babysitting arrangements or going to a friend’s house. Students also need to use their designated bus stop for boarding and drop off each day.

**Car riders:**
Please remember that the building is not open for students until 8:00 am each day. Please do not drop off your child before this time. Our primary concern is the safety of your child.

**All student pick-ups are in the front of the building at the main entrance only.**
All drivers picking up students must enter the parking lot using the east entrance that is nearest the baseball field. Please follow the driveway along the outside of the parking lot. Vehicles are to form a single file line stopping at the sidewalk in front of the main entrance to the school. Your student(s) **may not** cross the parking lot to get into a vehicle. All vehicles must exit the parking lot using the west exit. Vehicles are not to drive across the parking lot to use the east exit for departure (as it is designated a one-way entrance during school hours). If a driver needs to enter the building to pick up their student(s), please park in the middle of the lot and walk towards the main entrance. During pick-up times, students are not permitted to cross the parking lot without an adult. Drivers picking up students (or absent work from the office) are asked not to park in the spaces adjacent to the sidewalks. Parking in these spaces poses a danger for a collision during this time. If your student is not outside when your vehicle is the lead one, the driver will need to pull around and go back through the pick-up line of cars.

**Visitors:**
For the safety of our students and staff, all visitors must sign in at the main office. This includes before, during, and after school hours. Please have a picture ID available when you check in. We understand that you will periodically need to talk with your child’s teacher. You are always welcome to do, but we do ask that you arrange for a date and time in advance with your child’s teacher. This will ensure that they are available to talk with you when you arrive.

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**Cell Phone Use:**
The use of cell phones at school is detrimental to the academic climate because it takes valuable time away from instruction and creates disciplinary problems. Students’ cell phones should be turned off and **NOT JUST SILENCED** while inside the building before, during, and after the school day. Cell phones must be stored in backpacks and not in student possession during the school day. Students who violate this policy will have the cell phone confiscated and will receive disciplinary consequences.

**Dress Code reminder....**
With cooler weather upon us, please remind your child(ren) of the appearance code as stated in the handbook.

Students’ dress for school must be appropriate.

- **Pants with excessive shredding or holes are not appropriate.**
- **Skirts and shorts must be to the fingertips regardless of additional leg wear underneath.**
- Necklines must be 3” from the collarbone area.
- Pajama pants (blanket fleece and flannel pants included) may only be worn on designated spirit days.
- Outerwear, such as coats, jackets, gloves, sunglasses, hats and other head coverings may not be worn during the school day unless the student is directly entering or leaving the building. Fingerless gloves are not permitted while in the school building.

You may consider sending your child with a sweatshirt or sweater to keep at school in case they get cold during school day.