



The Weekly Read-It

John Muir School PTA Newsletter

October 10, 2017

From the Principal

October Toolbox Focus: The Empathy Tool

Our Toolbox focus for October is the Empathy Tool. We use the Empathy Tool when we try to experience what someone else is feeling or thinking. Empathy is the root of understanding, kindness, and forgiveness. Please ask your child what they are learning about the Empathy Tool and practice using it with them at home.

— Audrey Amos, Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17: First PTA Meeting of the Year, 6 – 7:30 pm

Learn what the John Muir PTA is all about, and make your voice heard at our first meeting of the year, 6 – 7:30 pm on Tuesday, October 17, in the School Library. Meet PTA President Jessica Evans and the rest of the executive board; hear about computers and technology from 4th grade teacher Jeffrey Gordon; learn about events for the 2017-2018 school year; and become a part of the welcoming John Muir PTA community.

Free dinner will be provided for adults at the meeting, and free childcare (from Kids in Motion) and pizza dinner will be provided for kids in the cafeteria.

The Walk-a-Thon is Coming—October 20!

This week, students will bring home pledge envelopes for the Walk-A-Thon. Thank you for asking your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers for small donations.

People can sponsor kids for a certain amount of money per lap or contribute a flat donation. We are aiming for each student to raise \$50. If you need additional envelopes, there are extras in the School Office. The Walk-A-Thon is an important annual fundraiser that traditionally brings in almost \$10,000 for essential programs at John Muir.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the event. Track laps, cheer kids on, decorate, DJ the event, prepare water bottles, or help set up or clean up. We need volunteers the week before and during the event, including a lead volunteers to keep everyone organized. For questions, ask PTA President Jessica Evans at jburtonevans@gmail.com or signup at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a49a8a82aa2fe3-john>.

- The tentative schedule for the Walk-A-Thon is
- Kindergarten: 1-1:15 pm;
- 1st-2nd Grades: 1:20-1:50 pm;
- 3rd-5th Grades: 2:00-2:45 pm.

The Grizzly Fund is Halfway Over – How Close Are We to the Popsicle Party?!?!

The John Muir PTA's inaugural Grizzly Fund has been gleaning great donations from the John Muir Community, but we still have a long way to go to reach our **\$20,000** goal by 10/20. We're at \$5,115. Can we make that popsicle party?!?! Track us at the John Muir PTA website at: <https://www.johnmuirschool.org/grizzly-fund>.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/16 PRIDE Mondays Return

10/17 First PTA Meeting, 6 pm

10/19 SGC Meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm
(Longfellow Middle School)

10/20 Walk-a-Thon

10/21 Cal Parking (Arizona), 2 pm

10/25 G-R-R! Costume Drive Starts

10/27 School Assembly, 9 am

Donate to the Grizzly Fund in these ways:

- Drop off a check made out to "John Muir PTA" to the PTA Box in the School Office
- Give checks or cash to PTA volunteers at Wednesday morning dropoffs
- Return a check made out to "John Muir PTA" with your child's homework folder
- Donate online via [The Grizzly Fund](#) page on the John Muir PTA website.

We will be collecting donations and serving free coffee Wednesday mornings until the fund drive completes.

Where Do Your Grizzly Fund Donations Go? Teachers Share How They Use Their PTA Funds

This week, three more John Muir teachers share how they use funds from PTA teacher grants. Your donations are important to our kids' education!

Ms. Vogel (Kindergarten, Room 2):

"What make the PTA teacher grants so valuable to us teachers is that when we see something that we need for our students, or when we are planning our curriculum for the school year, we know that we will have additional monetary support to improve our classrooms for the better.

In the past few years, I've used grant money to help pay for field trips, new furniture like bookshelves, new books that tie into my curriculum, art supplies, quilting supplies, classroom games, and food and equipment for our trout."

Ms. Debbie (Kindergarten/1st Grade, Room 4):

"Last year, I used the PTA teacher money for: admission tickets to Oakland Museum of California; transportation on BART; school bus trips to Tilden Park. I also used funds to purchase food and vitamins for our classroom's baby chicks, and supplies like paint, glue, and paper for my budding artists."

Ms. Carey (1st Grade, Room 6):

"I'm new to John Muir this year, so my first purchase will be classroom supplies for a new teacher! I also plan to use funds for: pillows for cozy reading spots, pocket charts, interactive calendar, bins, markers, pencil sharpeners, and all the other supplies that help first graders become active learners."

Cal Parking Returns on Saturday, October 21, 2 pm

Save the date for Saturday, October 21, when Cal Parking returns to John Muir for a twilight game vs. Arizona. You can advertise the parking on Ashby and Claremont, direct cars on the blacktop, or supervise the play areas. You can come for an hour, or stay for the whole thing, and kids are definitely welcome. Please contact Danielle Perez at dai_night@hotmail.com to learn more or sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a49a8a82aa2fe3-calfootball2>.

Can You Help the Pokémon Club?

If any parent volunteers would like to help out at the Wednesday Pokémon class from 2:15 - 3:15 pm, please contact Sylvia Del Toro at sadt04192000@sbcglobal.net. No experience with Pokémon is necessary. Help would be welcomed to check kids in and out and to help with snack distribution.