

WATERS WELCOMES YOU!!!

WELCOME FAMILIES AND STUDENTS TO OUR 2010/2011 SCHOOL YEAR!

This handy resource packet of Waters information is for new and returning families. Please take the time to read this as the school year starts, and keep on hand for reference throughout the school year. You can also find a wealth of worthwhile information on our web site, www.waters elementary.org.

Address and Phone

Thomas J. Waters Elementary
4540 N Campbell Ave
Chicago, IL 60625

P 773-534-5090
F 773-534-5087

Web Sites

Waters School: <http://www.waters elementary.org>
Class Web Sites: Many teachers have individual class web sites.
Look for updates from you child's teacher as the year gets underway.

Waters Yahoo Groups: Sign up for regular email updates and discussions on our school's Yahoo groups. Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for "WatersSchoolCommunity" (broader community focus) and "WatersParentForum" (parent-only discussion and resource share) then follow the "Sign Up" instructions. More detail on these later in the guide.

WatersToday / PTC: <http://waterstoday.org>
CPS: <http://www.cps.edu>

Waters Email Updates: To get weekly updates, including Waters Weekly Green Notes, email: communications@waterstoday.org to get on that email distribution list.

Volunteer Opportunities: Email volunteer@waterstoday.org if you are interested in volunteering at the school. There are many areas in which help would be appreciated.

Important New School Safety Policy: Building Access

Safety for all students and staff is a priority at Waters. School begins at 8:55am and dismisses at 2:45pm. Breakfast is served at 8:30am but you, the parent, **must accompany your child during breakfast time.** They cannot be left alone (refer to Early Birds Drop-Off section.)

Students are not permitted to be in the building BEFORE or AFTER school unless they are in a specified program. This includes the use of bathrooms and waters fountains. Please remind children to use the restroom before they arrive and depart school for the day, as we will not allow children to enter the school when it is not in session. The school will be locked.

Again, safety is a priority at Waters. Anyone not adhering to this policy will be disciplined. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Forms and Fees Due

FORMS – DUE FRI., SEPT. 17th

Please sign and return the enclosed five (5) documents to your child's teacher by Friday September 17:

- **Student Code of Conduct Book.** Please read, sign and tear out the last page, and return it to the office.
- **Emergency Form.** If you filled one out already for a new student entering Waters for the first time **this year**, you do not need to do this. We do need a new one filled out from all of our existing students every year. It is imperative that the school office be informed of changes in address and/or phone number. This is particularly important if a parent changes jobs or has a new daytime or cellular number.
- **Lunch Application.** Required to be filled out by all families, whether you qualify or not, as this is used to determine school funding for the year. It is confidential information and will not be shared with any outside parties. **We need this from everyone, whether they qualify or not, to maximize federal and state funding for our school.**
- **Family Directory Information Sheet.** The school directory is helpful for parents who would like to connect with other parents regarding school, classroom and volunteer needs. If your family was in the directory last year, **there's no need to send this form back. Only return this if you have NEW information.** Note that this is not shared outside of the school. More on this in School Communications Section.
- **Acceptable Usage Policy.** We often use pictures of our students in our marketing materials, such as brochures and on the Waters School and WatersToday websites. **Only sign and return this if you DO NOT want your child's photo(s) shown.**

SCHOOL FEES – DUE FRI., SEPT. 17th

A school fee is requested for all students to cover workbooks, general classroom instructional materials and art materials. This is payable within the first three weeks of the 10/11 school year, **please pay by Friday, Sept 17.**

Standard Fee:	\$35/student or \$50/max. /family
Free and Reduced Lunch Families:	\$20/student or \$30/max/family

Please send with your child, via cash, or money order (no checks please), in an envelope marked with the student's name, room number and the words "School Fee" to give to his/her teacher. If you cannot pay the fee, you can turn in a fee waiver (available in the office) and volunteer instead for at least five hours during the year. Many volunteer opportunities will be made available. Pre-K families are not required to pay this fee, but are welcome to donate if they choose.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

Waters physical education program requires that all students from K-8 wear comfortable, non-binding shorts or sweatpants and t-shirts to gym class. If your child comes unprepared to gym class wearing shoes other than non-marking sole gym shoes, i.e. sandals, boots, or shoes with hard soles or buckles, he or she will be asked to sit out the class. This is for your child's safety.

The School Day

Official School Hours: 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Office Hours: 8:30 am – 3:45 pm
Official Teacher Hours: 8:30 am – 2:45 pm

There may be times when you wish to speak with the administration. If you need to speak with Principal Kipp or Assistant Principal Alvarez, please call the office to make an appointment or email your request.

Morning Bell rings as 8:55am for line up. Look for ground markers to distinguish line up in lower grades and please adhere to these to avoid bottleneck on the pathways.

- Pre K and Kinder assemble at the North doors (on Wilson Ave)
- 1st and 2nd grades at North/East doors (on Campbell)
- 3rd, 4th, and 5th, grades at the Front doors (on Campbell)
- 6th thru 8th grades at the South doors of the new Annex (on Sunnyside)

SPECIAL DROP-OFF CONSIDERATIONS IN INCLEMENT WEATHER

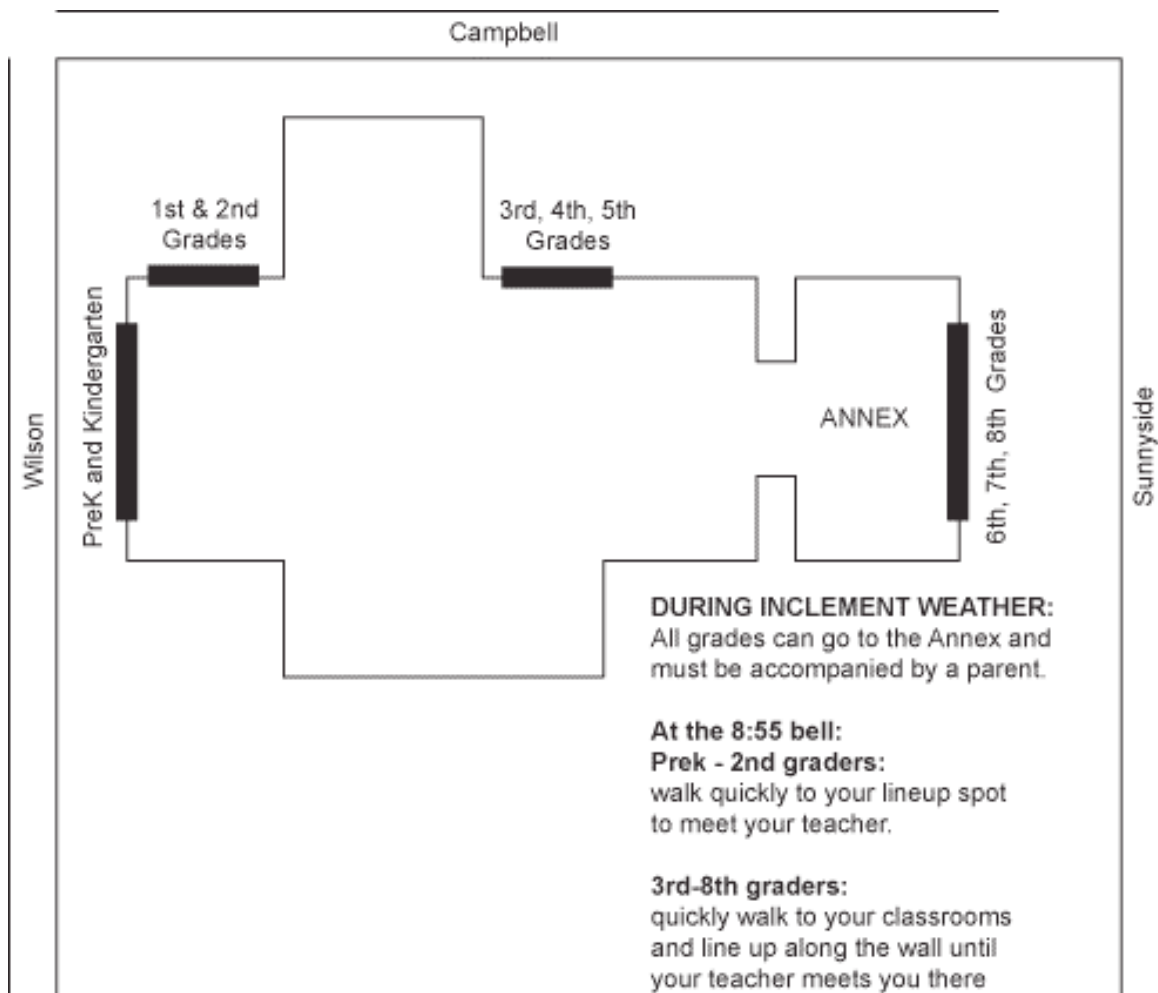
On most days, students are required to line up behind their classrooms numbers, located on the pavement outside the Wilson and Campbell Street entrances. However, if there’s severe rain or it’s bitterly cold, students will be allowed to come into the new cafeteria in the Annex on the south side of the school:

ON THESE DAYS, when the line up bell rings at 8:55:

PreK-2nd grade students will quietly walk to their line up spots on the north end of the school to meet their teachers.

3rd – 8th grade students will quietly walk to their classrooms and wait along the wall until their teacher arrives at the classroom.

STANDARD LINE-UP CONFIGURATION:



PARKING/ DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

Please note that Campbell Avenue is blocked off between Wilson and Sunnyside during drop-off and pick-off times. **The school parking lot is designated for Waters staff only** – please do not park there or use the lot for drop-off.

Parking can be difficult on these congested streets. Not only is it unsafe, **it is illegal to double park or block the street**. Police often ticket on the streets directly bordering the school so please read the street signs for restrictions. Sometimes it's best to park a couple of blocks away and walk to the school – and it's great exercise too!

SCHOOL ENTRY GUIDELINES

For security reasons, the doors are locked during regular school hours. The main entrance is located on the southeast side of the school, to the immediate right of the turf field and facing Campbell Ave. Please use this entrance when entering the school at a time other than regular drop off or pick up. There is a buzzer and video screen connected to the main office for security purposes. Please be considerate and **do not use the buzzer at the Wilson Ave. entrance to gain entrance at those doors**, as this connects directly to the tuition-based pre-k classroom and should only be used by those families to avoid unnecessary disruptions.

AFTER SCHOOL BUILDING USAGE

It's common for children to play on school grounds before and after school. But unless your child is in a before-school or after-school activity in the school, **students are not allowed to enter the school before the bell rings and after dismissal**. Please remind children to use the restroom before they arrive and depart school for the day, as we will not allow children to enter the school when it is not in session. The school will be locked. Please be reminded this is for the safety students and school staff.

Absences, Tardiness, Early Dismissal

Good attendance is a school priority. All students should be at school, on time, each day. If a student is absent, our automated phone system will call home to inform parents. Please make sure you have current phone numbers on file in the office so that you receive this call.

ABSENCES

If your child misses a day of school, a parent or guardian must call the school and the student is required to bring in a note upon return to school stating the reason for the absence. Turn the note in to the office or the teacher. Students without a note may not have their absence(s) excused. Students who missed school due to a communicable disease or who missed more than three days of school will also need a doctor's note to be readmitted to class. In order for the absence to be excused, the administration must review the note and determine if it meets the following legal requirements for an excused absence:

- Student illness
- Death in the immediate family
- Family emergency
- Observation of a religious holiday
- Circumstances causing reasonable concern for the student's health or safety
- Other situations out of the control of the student, as determined by the principal

TARDINESS

Any child arriving after 9:00 a.m. must stop in the office and obtain a tardy pass. Parents/guardians of students who accumulate more than three tardies will be called by the administration to resolve the issue.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If your child needs to arrive late or leave early, he/she should bring a note to the teacher stating the reason. The State of Illinois requires that a student attend at least 300 minutes in order for it to be considered a “full day” of attendance. Students who arrive late (after 9:25 a.m.) or have an early dismissal (prior to 2:20 p.m.) will be considered absent for a half-day.

Immunizations and Medical Exam Requirements

IMMUNIZATIONS & PHYSICAL EXAMS

All students must be up-to-date on their immunizations. **Students entering kindergarten, 6th and 9th grade must provide proof of physical exam prior to October 15 of the current school year.**

DENTAL EXAMS & SCHOOL-BASED ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

All students in kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grade must provide proof of a completed dental exam by a licensed dentist prior to May 15 of the current school year. CPS does come to schools to provide free dental exams. Please call the school to find out more on this.

EYE EXAMS

Kindergartners and any student enrolling for the first time in any grade must provide proof of an eye examination before October 15 of the current school year. CPS does come to schools to provide free vision exams. Please call the school to find out more on this.

Food Service

Breakfast, Lunch and after school snacks (for after school programs) are provided by our cafeteria. Complete the **“Free and Reduced Lunch”** application to qualify for free or reduced cost. No matter your household income, please complete this form and turn it in to the school. School funding is determined based in part on free and reduced lunch so we need all families to complete this to ensure adequate school funding, even if you know you won’t qualify!

All students who have been previously approved for Free and Reduced meals can continue to receive this benefit starting on the first day of school. New applicants will have to pay full price until their status is approved.

Breakfast

Served at 8:30 am daily Cost: FREE

Lunch

Waters holds recess BEFORE the lunch period. Having recess before will not only increase your child’s appetite for a healthy lunch but helps provide a calmer, more pleasant atmosphere in the cafeteria.

Student Cost: Grades K-5: \$2.25 full / \$0.40 reduced / Grades 6-8: \$2.50 full / \$0.40 reduced

*NOTE: Kindergartners lunch hour is extended to 12:15 for a 45-minute lunch/recess break.

* Milk Only: \$ 0.35

After School Snack

Free to all who are registered in an after school program

Classroom Pizza Party Days

Pizza parties do not substitute for lunches by State Law; children still required to eat school lunch or bring a lunch on these days.

Before and After School Care Programs & Enrichment Opportunities

Waters offers a variety of before- and after-school programs and enrichment, learning opportunities for children. We are always adding new programs. Below is a tentative list of what you can expect this year, but be aware that more programs may be added during the year:

DAILY BEFORE-SCHOOL CARE:

EARLY BIRDS K-8

Supervised before school care provided by Waters School. Students can be dropped off at 8:00 am, Monday - Friday. Breakfast available at 8:30 am.

Cost: \$100/mo/child.

Tentative start: September 7th, 1st day of school.

For additional information and/or to sign up, please contact Ms. Garcia via her mailbox in the main office or at hgarcia2@cps.edu.

OTHER BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

Please note that the list and information below is **TENTATIVE and subject to change**. This is a basic idea of what will be available, but not all programs have been finalized. The information that we DO have so far is noted here. More details to come once the school year begins.

SPANISH IMMERSION grades K-5

Tuesdays and Thursdays (twice a week)

8:00 - 8:45; then 8:45- 8:55 they snack and relax

Students in grades Kinder-5th are taught Spanish through language immersion. Students participate through games, song, art and play. Workbooks are also used as students learn to read, write, and conjugate in Spanish.

Cost: \$14 per week / twice a week / 13 weeks

Tentative start: September 21st, look for details to come.

CHORUS grades 3-8

Cost: FREE

Tentative start: possibly in late October, times and days to come

AFTER-SCHOOL:

DAILY AFTER SCHOOL CARE:

YMCA grades K-8

After care provided by the YMCA at Waters, 3 or 5 days a week - 2:45 pm – 6:00pm. Session typically runs for 8 weeks, 5 sessions total for the school year, available the first day of school.

There are three plans to choose from, with reduced costs for YMCA members. Prices vary based on the length of sessions:

M, T, W, Th, F \$394 for members*, \$525 for non-members

M, W, F \$324 for members*, \$380 for non-members

T, Th, F \$324 for members*, \$380 for non-members

***Any child 6 years and up can become a sole member for \$22 per month.**

Registration and first payment must be made at:

Lakeview YMCA, 3333 N. Marchfield, 773-248-3333.

Registration will be open till sessions are filled, maximum of 45 students per session.

Please call before school starts if you would like to use this your first day of school.

OTHER AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

All After-School students will get a snack promptly at 2:45. They will proceed to their after school room, where they will eat until their program begins at 3:00 pm.

Waters offers both Free and Tuition-based after-school Programs. **Below is a tentative list, with an estimated idea of cost, day of week and start dates.** Final info to come after school starts.

TUITION BASED PROGRAMS, start earlier than Free Programs

Days and costs may change

Mad Science - Mondays – 3:00-4:00 Grades K-5

Cost: \$14 per week

Tentative start: September 27, look for details to come.

Circus Arts - Tuesdays – 3:00-4:00 Grades K-8

Cost: \$18 per week

Tentative start: September 27, look for details to come.

Global Explorers - Wednesdays – 3:00-4:30 Grades K-5

Cost: \$10 per week

Tentative start: September 29, look for details to come.

Intermediate Band Ensemble - Wednesdays – 3:00-4:00 Grades 4-8

Student should have at least one year experience learning an instrument before joining this

Cost: \$18 per week, \$263 per semester, instruments are provided

(cost may be reduced depending on how many enroll)

Tentative start: October 6, look for details to come

Beginner Band - Thursdays – 3:00-4:00 Grades 4-8

Cost: \$18 per week, \$263 per semester, instruments are provided

(cost may be reduced depending on how many enroll)

Tentative start: October 7, look for details to come.

Smlng Strings Orchestra – twice a week: Tues & Thurs – 3:00-3:30 Grades K-8

Cost: \$18 per week, \$288 per semester, instruments are \$15/month, one \$50

administration fee

Tentative start: September 21, look for details to come.

FREE FUNDED PROGRAMS, generally start in later October

days and costs may change

Chess Team/Club – Grades 1-8

S.E.S. Tutoring Program – Grades 1-8

Applications available in late September/ October. Most students who qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program qualify for this program. This program does not offer homework help, only tutoring services.

S.C.A.L.E. – Grades vary

A grant from Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education, this program will start in October. This program consists of different classes for different grades. Last year we offered: MediaLab, Digital Photography, Doll Making and Hip Hop (which was offered in the morning). The offerings may change this year.

All Stars Sport Intramurals – Grades 3-8

Waters Wildcats Team Sports – Grades 5-8 (girls and boys sports vary)

There is a small fee for uniforms and busses. Last year included boys & girls basketball, volleyball, and track; and boys flag football. This year it may be different.

Girls on the Run – Grades 3-5

This does not start until the Spring. Parent volunteers are needed for it to exist. (We have no volunteers right now, let us know if you are interested.)

Teams and Clubs (some meet afterschool)

Look for details in upcoming Waters news on the start date and fees (if applicable) for the following Waters Teams and Clubs:

NOTE: this information is based on last year's participating grades and can be subject to change.

School Sports Teams	grades: 5 - 8
Media Lab	grades: 7 - 8
Recycling Captains	grades: 1 - 8
AllStars Intramural Sports	grades: 3 - 8
Chess Club and Academy	grades: 1 - 8
Yearbook Club	grades: 7 - 8
Tech Crew	grades: 5 - 8
Leadership Ambassadors	grades: 6 – 8
Drama Club and Set Design Crew ...	Participating grades change from year to year depending on the types of projects being worked on at the school.

Local School Council – LSC

Some of the main responsibilities of the LSC are to conduct principal evaluations, work with administration and school body to create the School Improvement Plan for Advancing Academic Achievement (SIPAAA) and approve the school's budget. The LSC does not hire or evaluate teachers, determine class sizes or create the budget.

LSC meetings are held once a month and are open to the public. There is time for public comments in each meeting so you are encouraged to attend to hear the latest LSC news and voice your concerns.

Elected council consisting of:

The Principal	Ms. Kipp
2 teachers	Ms. Garcia and Ms.Griffin
6 parents	Mike Morgan (Chair Person), Maria Cardenas Dawn Guerra, Patricia Hernandez Gloria Jacobsen, Claire Wapole
2 community	Laura Nally Pete Leki

Waters LSC email address: waterslsc@gmail.com

Meeting Schedule: Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, in the Annex.

September 14 th	3:30pm
October 12 th	6:00pm
November 9 th	3:30pm
December 14 th	6:00pm

January 11 th	3:30pm
February 8 th	6:00pm
March 8 th	3:30pm
April 12 th	6:00pm
May 10 th	3:30pm
June 14 th	6:00pm

Parent Teacher Co-Op – PTC

The PTC is a dedicated board of parents and teachers that help lead communications, academic enhancement initiatives and fundraising efforts to bring extra opportunities to Waters students. Fundraising has become an integral part of the Waters' culture – and having a dedicated group of volunteers to lead these efforts allows us to create, implement and maintain important, enriching programs for our students each year.

The PTC operates on a volunteer basis and encourages parents to get involved in the many initiatives it leads throughout the year. The best way to stay-up-to-date is to attend the monthly meetings and read Waters happenings in The Green Notes. Babysitting will be provided.

The current PTC Board consists of:

President	Terri Versace
Treasurer	Christine Weldon
Secretary	Serena Hess
Communications	Amy Morgan
Volunteer Coordinator	Jean Ternovits

PTC Meeting Schedule: Generally the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Annex, subject to change if necessary. Meetings will have a specific topic of interest that will be announced prior to the meeting date:

September 15 & 16	6:30 – 7:00ish pm (held during both Parent Orientation nights)
October 20	3:15 pm
November 17	- no Nov. meeting due to holiday; will combine with Dec. meeting
December 15	3:15 pm
January 19	6:30 pm
February 16	3:15 pm
March 16	6:30 pm
April 20	3:15 pm
May 18	6:30 pm last PTC meeting

Note that new officers will be elected in the spring of 2012. Interested parents are invited to shadow the position. Email info@waterstoday.org if you are interested.

FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

FLOWER POWER PLEDGE DRIVE FOR MUSIC & ECOLOGY

Fundraising is critically important to the success of our school as it enables us to provide programming above and beyond what CPS offers our students and helps offset impending budget cuts that could be detrimental to the programs we have in place. Last year, we implemented our inaugural **Flower Power School Pledge Drive** to help raise critical **GROW (Greater Resources and Opportunities) funds** to sustain our music and ecology programs. Thanks to grant allocation and the participation of Waters' families in the pledge drive and other fundraising initiatives (e.g. the spring event), we raised a total of \$76,000 last year!

We will continue our all-school pledge drive this year, which asks for a monthly monetary commitment from families to help maintain our music and ecology programs. The school pledge drive is set on sliding scale to accommodate all income levels and can be paid over time. We ask for everyone's participation in the pledge drive as every little bit helps. The PTC will send out more details on the Flower Power pledge drive, which begins in the fall, in the coming days. Thank you in advance for your support!

EASY MONEY

In addition to our fundraising efforts, parents can help us secure "easy money" for Waters with little time and effort and no monetary commitment on your part. Please help out in any of these ways if you can:

TARGET Red Card



If you have a Target Red Card, please go to www.target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 and add Waters Elementary (school id 45994) so Waters can receive 1% of all your Target purchases

BoxTops for Education



Waters is collecting BoxTops for Education, which are found on the boxes of many General Mills, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Ziploc and many other products. Please drop these BoxTops (if you have them) off at Waters to help them raise additional funds. There is a labeled box in the Main Office.

Labels for Education



Cut out the UPC from common products such as Campbell's soups, Spaghettios, Swanson, Prego, Pepperidge Farm breads and snacks, Goldfish Crackers and V8 (caps). Not all eligible products have these symbols near the UPC yet, so feel free to turn in the whole label if you are unsure.



Project A+

Clip and save Project A+ labels from participating Tyson products. Clip the entire 1,2,3 section. Each complete label is worth 24 cents!!

Jewel Shop & Share Days



Several times throughout the year Jewel generously donates a portion of their proceeds to us. Simply shop at Jewel on the designated date and turn in the special identifier slip at checkout. Waters gets a donation equal to 5% of the purchase. Details to follow on when Waters' dates are. Slips will be available closer to the event. Consider distributing them to everyone you know.

Dominick's



Check your Dominick's receipts from Sept 18 - Oct 10 to see if you have made any qualifying purchases for their Back to School program. If you have a redemption code at the bottom of your receipt, you can either sign in to escrip.com and credit it to Waters, or drop the bottom half of the receipt in the office collection box and we will do it for you. If you are already a member of [escrip](http://escrip.com) and Waters is your chosen school, the donation is automatic.

Recycle



Recycle empty printer cartridges and old cell phones. Turn them into the office and we will turn them into money!

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

Want to show your support for Waters? We have Waters "Good Things Are Growing" youth and adult t-shirts, "Waters Brown Line" (adult only) t-shirts, and reusable shopping bags for sale (with all proceeds benefiting the school). Stop in the office to purchase, or look for these items at school events.

T-shirts: \$12/ child or \$15/ adult; **Bags:** \$5

School Communications

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

We ask for everyone's help in compiling our school directory, which helps teachers and room parents communicate classroom-specific news and can help when you want to ask fellow parents about homework assignments, plan gatherings, etc. This year, as we look to reduce paper waste, we will NOT print and distribute an all-school directory to each family. Instead, each family will receive a contact sheet for the families in his/ her child's grade, with copies of the all-school directory in the office for reference. You will remain in the directory each year UNLESS YOU OPT-OUT by sending an email to communications@waterstoday.org

You will be receiving last year's school directory, as well as information some families already provided for this year's directory. This is sorted by last name.

- **Returning families:** If this information is inaccurate or you do not want to be included in the directory this year, please send an email to communications@waterstoday.org by **Friday, Sept. 16th** or return the contact form to the office, indicating your updated information or your wish to be removed from the list. If we do not hear from you by this date, we'll assume that the information is accurate and you'd like to be included in the directory again so we will include this information.
- **New Families:** If you are a new parent whose family is not included in the school directory but you'd like to be, please send your information to communications@waterstoday.org or return the directory form to the office by **Friday, Sept. 16th**. Info to include: student name, grade, room number, parents' names, address, phone number and email address. Please indicate if you'd like to be opt-in for weekly news updates as well. Please include ALL information.

GREEN NOTES

Stay informed about important Waters' news and school happenings with The Green Notes, our weekly newsletter that will be distributed on Tuesdays this year. **We will only distribute an electronic version of The Green Notes this year**, in an effort to reduce the amount of paper and other resources it takes to distribute these. To receive the weekly newsletter via email, send an email to Amy Morgan at communications@waterstoday.org. Your email address will not be shared out – this is strictly to receive the weekly news. The Green Notes will also be uploaded to the Waters' school web site each week.

Note that printed copies will be available in the office for those who do not have email or computer access.

Please be sure to set your email settings to allow emails from communications@waterstoday.org - otherwise, it may be lost in your spam folder.

GOT NEWS?

If you have Waters news to share, please send an email to our PTC Communications Chair, Amy Morgan, at communications@waterstoday.org by 6 p.m. every Friday for inclusion in the following week's newsletter. Information received after this time will not be included, as we need time for Spanish translation.

YAHOO GROUPS

We will have two Yahoo groups this year that will provide information on ecology/ garden and serve as a parent forum. Both require sign-up online.

- **Waters School Community group**, the existing group that's open to parents, neighbors and others in the community and largely focuses on issues, events, etc. pertinent to the school and broader community (often with an ecology program/ garden focus). Many of you are already members of this group. Note that we will no longer post Waters Green Notes on this group page.
- **Waters Parent Forum group** is a new group we've established specifically for parents to have a forum to ask questions of other parents and share information that's not appropriate for the community group (e.g. homework help, classroom volunteers, questions about school events, there's a sale on school supplies or someone's seeking a sitter). We will not post Waters Green Notes or weekly news updates on this group page – this is strictly a parent forum and it will be moderated by a fellow parent/ page administrator to ensure that everyone maintain a level of courtesy and respect. You are expected to follow the 'rules of the road.'

To sign-up for Yahoo groups:

Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for "WatersSchoolCommunity" or "WatersParentForum," then follow the "Sign Up" instructions.

Waters Works – Volunteer Opportunities

Jean Ternovits, Waters Volunteer Coordinator, is planning the "Waters Works" initiative that includes:

- › **panel discussions with current volunteers:**
- › **goals and opportunities for feedback** for our groups;
- › **opportunities to help or lead**, and;
- › **rules & regulations** for being in the school in a volunteer capacity.

It's important to note that our teachers and school personnel request that most of the volunteering get underway in October. This allows time for classroom and school routines to be strongly in place before parents begin working at the school. The Waters Works Volunteers will use September to get our groups organized and ready to go. We'll also work on volunteers' CPS paperwork to be filled out and submitted.

Below is a summary of our volunteer groups, including current groups that have been working for years, and groups to be formed...

CURRENT GROUPS

- **Ecology Volunteers** - For those interested in tending to the Waters Gardens, there are opportunities for outside labor, inside science-based tasks and helping classrooms with their ecology education throughout the school year.
- **Bilingual Advisory Committee (BAC)** - For those who are concerned about the quality of the bilingual education provided to them, the BAC brings planning ideas and concerns to the attention of the LSC.
- **Parent Ensemble (PAC - Parent Advisory Council/Title 1/NCLB)** - For those interested in engaging in fine art based activities, Parent Ensemble volunteers meet weekly for a variety of activities.
- **Fundraising Volunteers** - For those interested in working on the Flower Power Pledge Drive, the December Artisan Sale, the spring Flower Power event, bake sale help, online competitions for funding, grant writing, etc, this is the group to start with!
- **Parent Patrol** – For those who have a few minutes in the morning, we need help keeping each group of line-up doors open from 8:55 until 9:00 am, and then directing the latecomers to the main office door to be buzzed in.

NEW GROUPS

- **Library Volunteers** - For those interested in getting a glimpse into the school day and being part of library education for our students, join us in our parent-run library. You'll also have a special opportunity twice a year to be part of the Scholastic Book Fair – an awesome fundraiser for the school library!
- **Room Parent Team** - The Room Parent program was “unofficially” organized for the 2009/2010, and it will be revamped for this year based on the GREAT successes from last year. Generally, a classroom Room Parent worked with the teacher to share information with classroom parents and recruit parent help as needed. (This help could include field trip chaperones, help on picture day, special events, teacher appreciation, etc.)
- **In-Classroom Help** - Helping teachers in his/her classroom is based solely on the teacher's request and often includes tasks like copying, in-classroom library check out/in, prep work for classroom activities, loading backpacks, coat/hat/boot help, classroom party organization, small group help, etc.
- **Science Fair Team** - Bring out your inner Einstein! For those interested in judging the middle school science fair projects, this is a great opportunity to interact with Waters' students and check out their awesome projects!
- **Classroom Readers** - Share your love of reading with a classroom that needs your help! We tried to organize classroom readers last school year and will work this year to make it easier, more meaningful and interesting for all!
- **Lunch Room Chaperones** - Little kids need help opening food packages, milk, and food from home. Bigger kids need less help, but it's great to have parents around just in case! We also began recycling in earnest in our new lunchroom and need to train our students to dispose of their containers in the correct bins when they leave the lunchroom.

- **Volunteers-On-Call** - On call volunteers are contacted on an as-needed basis for special activities like Picture Day, Eye Screening Day and Dental Screening day, special errands, special event set up/clean up, subbing in for parents who are unable to meet their volunteer commitment at the school because of illness, etc.

Finally, think about what works at Waters, and what could use some good, old-fashioned volunteer help! **We'll be very open to ideas and how you can help!**

School Events by Month

The following is a general, tentative calendar of activities that will take place throughout the year. Many depend on parent involvement. Check the Green Notes each week for the latest updates.

September

NO SCHOOL Fri, Sept. 24th

Orientation/Meet Your Teacher Night/1st PTC meeting: K-5th – Weds., Sept 15

Orientation/Meet Your Teacher Night/1st PTC meeting: 6th-8th (Middle School) – Thurs., Sept 16

All School and Directory Forms completed and turned in by Fri., Sept. 17

Waters School Fee due by Fri., Sept. 17

Waters newsletter opt-in information due by Fri., Sept. 17

ALL FAMILIES!! Free and Reduced Lunch forms completed and turned in – Fri., Sept. 23

Parent Volunteer Meeting

Middle School Leadership Team Selection

Tuition Based After School Programs Start

October

NO SCHOOL Mon., Oct. 11 and Fri., Oct. 22

Fall Flower Power Party Thurs., Oct. 14 (adults only)

School Photos

All About Me Presentation (K – 2nd grade)

Pumpkin Patch Fun Day

Fall Harvest/Garden Clean Up

Halloween Parade

Day of the Dead

Spirit Week

Free After School Programs Start

November

NO SCHOOL Thurs., Oct. 11' Fri., Oct. 12, Thurs., Oct. 25' Fri., Oct. 26

Parent Teacher Conferences – Wed, Nov 17

All School Science Fair (PreK through 8th grades participate)

December

NO SCHOOL Fri., Dec. 3, Winter Break: Dec. 20- Dec. 31

Artisan Craft Fair Sat., Dec. 4

Scholastic Book Fair

Winter Assembly

January

NO SCHOOL Mon., Jan. 7, Fri., Jan. 28

Chinese New Year Celebration (K- 3rd grade)

February

NO SCHOOL Fri., Feb. 11, Mon., Feb. 21
Graduation Pictures
100th Day Celebration (Pre-K – 1st grade)

March

NO SCHOOL Mon., March 7
ISATs

April

NO SCHOOL Fri., April 1, Spring Break: April 18-22
Parent Teacher Conferences – Wed, April 6
School group pictures

May

NO SCHOOL Mon., May 30
Spring Fundraising Event – date & location TBD (adults only)
Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast
International Day/Drama Production
Middle School end-of-year trips

June

NO SCHOOL Weds., June 15, Thurs., June 16
Last day of school: Fri., June 17
8th Grade Graduation
Kindergarten end of the year celebration

We are so excited that you are here. Have a great year!

Waters Staff & Parent-Teacher Co-Op



Waters Works... Early Start Sign Up & Return this Slip!

We'd love to have you on our volunteer email list or call list – or we'll confirm your current information if you've already signed up. Thanks!

your name _____

child's name & grade _____

email address _____

phone number _____

Please cut out this filled-out slip and return with the other documents in this packet, or email Jean Ternovits at volunteer@waterstoday.org. You'll be contacted in early September. Thanks!