

Walnut Hills Newsletter

A Beautiful Community of Families, Friends and Neighbors for 57 years

Help Us Fill The Plaque! Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund At A Crossroads And Needs Your Help

Walk in the front door of Castlewood Public Library, turn immediately to your left, go through the doorway next to the vending machines, and in that unlikely spot you'll find a little bit of Walnut Hills history.

There, on the wall, hang four wooden plaques. Each is covered with little metal plates, and each plate bears one or more engraved names. They are the names of the young people who have earned Walnut Hills Scholarships, dating all the way back to 1972.

If you've lived in the neighborhood for many years, you will recognize the names of long-time local families, or perhaps the name of the kid who, decades ago, babysat for you, trick-or-treated at your door, or lived down the street. Even if you're newer to the neighborhood, you might still spot the names of friends, or of your son's or daughter's friends. Maybe your own child has a nameplate on the plaque. Maybe he or she will someday.

On the last plaque, there's one blank nameplate. Whose names will be next to appear?

For forty-eight years now, the Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund has been honoring our neighborhood's outstanding high-school seniors, awarding anywhere from one to five scholarships a year to college-bound students who've achieved academic excellence and proven their qualities of leadership, service, and character. There have been a total of 147 winners, totaling nearly a quarter-million dollars in scholarships.

Much has changed in our neighborhood in the nearly half-century since the Walnut Hills Women's Club started the scholarship program. The program has endured through it all. After the Women's Club went inactive in the late 1970s, the Walnut Hills Newsletter staff, headed by Diane Graham, started a new scholarship fund. John Fuller helmed it for 31 years, beginning in 1984. In 1995 it spun off as its own separate entity and has remained so ever since, benefiting from Fuller's years of leadership and generous contributions from the newsletter, the Civic Association, and thousands of Walnut Hills residents. **But it has once again reached a crossroads, and it could use your help.**

The Scholarship Fund entered an exciting new phase this past spring, when it secured IRS certification as a 501(c)(3) organization, a charitable nonprofit. This means all donations to the fund are now fully tax-deductible.

It might help open the way toward larger contributions, including from area businesses. That would not only ensure the long-term stability of the scholarship program, but also allow it to grow the dollar value of the scholarships—essential in a time when the costs of higher education continue to balloon.

At the same time, the Scholarship Fund has seen a more worrisome development in the last few years—a marked drop in contributions from neighborhood residents. The fund has recently been sustained by a couple of remarkably generous, anonymous donors, and we on the board are deeply grateful for their help, and the help of all who contribute. But overall giving has declined to the point where less than a quarter of all Walnut Hills households now donate to the fund.

It's a trend that has affected small neighborhood organizations all over the country. The reasons are many: changes in tax laws, the economic instability and insecurity that many families face, and the inevitable transformation of neighborhoods like ours as they age and adjust to changing times. In Walnut Hills, as any old-timer will tell you, many long-rooted residents have moved away or passed away in recent years. Many newer residents might not yet feel as invested in neighborhood organizations like the Civic Association or the Scholarship Fund—or might not even know they exist.

We on the Scholarship Fund board would like to re-introduce this long-standing Walnut Hills tradition to our newest neighbors, and ask all in the neighborhood for your renewed support. We would dearly love to bring the percentage of contributing households back up, to 40 percent or even 50 percent, so we can keep honoring our outstanding young people, supporting their continued education, and making a bigger difference to their families, strapped by the costs of higher learning. That young person and that family could be your friends' or neighbors'—or even, someday, yours. Every single donation, however modest, helps!

And if you own a business or know of a business that might be interested in donating to the scholarship fund, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

We can accept donations by mail or online. Online, please go to PayPal or Venmo, and use our email of walnuthillsscholarship@gmail.com. If you prefer mail, please send your contribution to:

Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund
c/o Scott Bess
7158 S. Quince St.
Centennial, CO 80112

Remember, whether you are a business or an individual donor, your contribution is 100 percent tax-deductible.

If you have any questions about the scholarship program, or any ideas you'd like to contribute, we'd love to hear from you. Please write to us at the mail or email address above, or if you prefer, call any of us on the board: Scott Bess at 720-839-8035; Peggy Castle at 303-770-7265; Laura Klee at 303-740-6226; or Bill Philpott at 720-746-9667.

Please help us keep this nearly fifty-year neighborhood tradition alive! Help us fill the fourth plaque—and many plaques to come!



Walnut Hills 2nd Annual Halloween Party

October 26th
2:00-4:00
(rain/snow date
November 2nd
2:00-4:00).

Come celebrate Halloween in your costumes with neighborhood friends! There will be games, music, candy, crafts and more.

Don't miss out on this fun, exciting event sponsored by the Walnut Hills Civic Association, supported by your yearly membership dues.

Don't Forget Fall Dumpster Day!

Saturday October 12th 8a to 11a (or til trucks are full)
The Garbage Man and Brookie and Son will be there
No Electronic Recycle this Event
Please call 303-741-2065 with any dump questions.

Trespassing And Vandalism

This is occurring at the gate between Willow St and the Commercial Center off and on since the wall and gate were built to separate Walnut Hills and the commercial center at Arapahoe and Yosemite. The gate between the two properties has been broken, twisted, etc. so that people may pass between the two properties. The WHCA and the property owner have been in contact over this on-going issue. Neighbors have fixed the gate on several occasions. The commercial property owner is offering a REWARD OF \$1,000 to any individual who can provide information leading to a conviction in connection with the vandalism this gate or individuals trespassing. If you have information, please contact Mr. Boyd at 719-499-4411 or marvinboyd59@gmail.com.

Thanks For Letting Us Know

Thanks, Walnut Hills for letting us know what your questions, concerns and interests are! The WHCA is here to serve you!

- Thanks for letting us know that Yoga in the Park was enjoyed and neighbors would like to see it again next year
- Thanks for letting us know that the Community Garage Sale was missed this year and neighbors would like to see it added back to the calendar
- Thanks for letting us know there was a low hanging branch blocking the view of on-coming traffic on Quebec
- Thanks for letting us know that the gate on Willow is being used for illegal access
- Thanks for letting us know that the recent City of Centennial Code update has potential effects on Walnut Hills

Now it is easier than ever to contact the WHCA by using our "Contact Us" page at <https://www.walnuthillscolorado.org/contact-us/> you can also reach out to us at membership@walnuthillscolorado.org.

WHCA Membership Dues

The WHCA thanks all of our dues-paying members for your generous support! THANK YOU! Some members are brand new to our community, some have been around for a while, some have kids, some are retired, some work, some play - all are valuable members and we want to serve YOU! For just \$25 a year, the WHCA is able to put on some really great events and help keep this community a great place to live. THANK YOU to the folks who have attended an event - you can see that the money is used wisely and we are now branching out and asking other members of our community to donate as well. Plus, we are always looking for ideas and suggestions. If you have thoughts about a current event, or would like to see something different in the future, please contact us via our Contact Us page on the WHCA website or at membership@walnuthillscolorado.org. We are also always looking for folks who would like to serve on the WHCA board - we are a diverse group of individuals who meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at Metrum Credit Union



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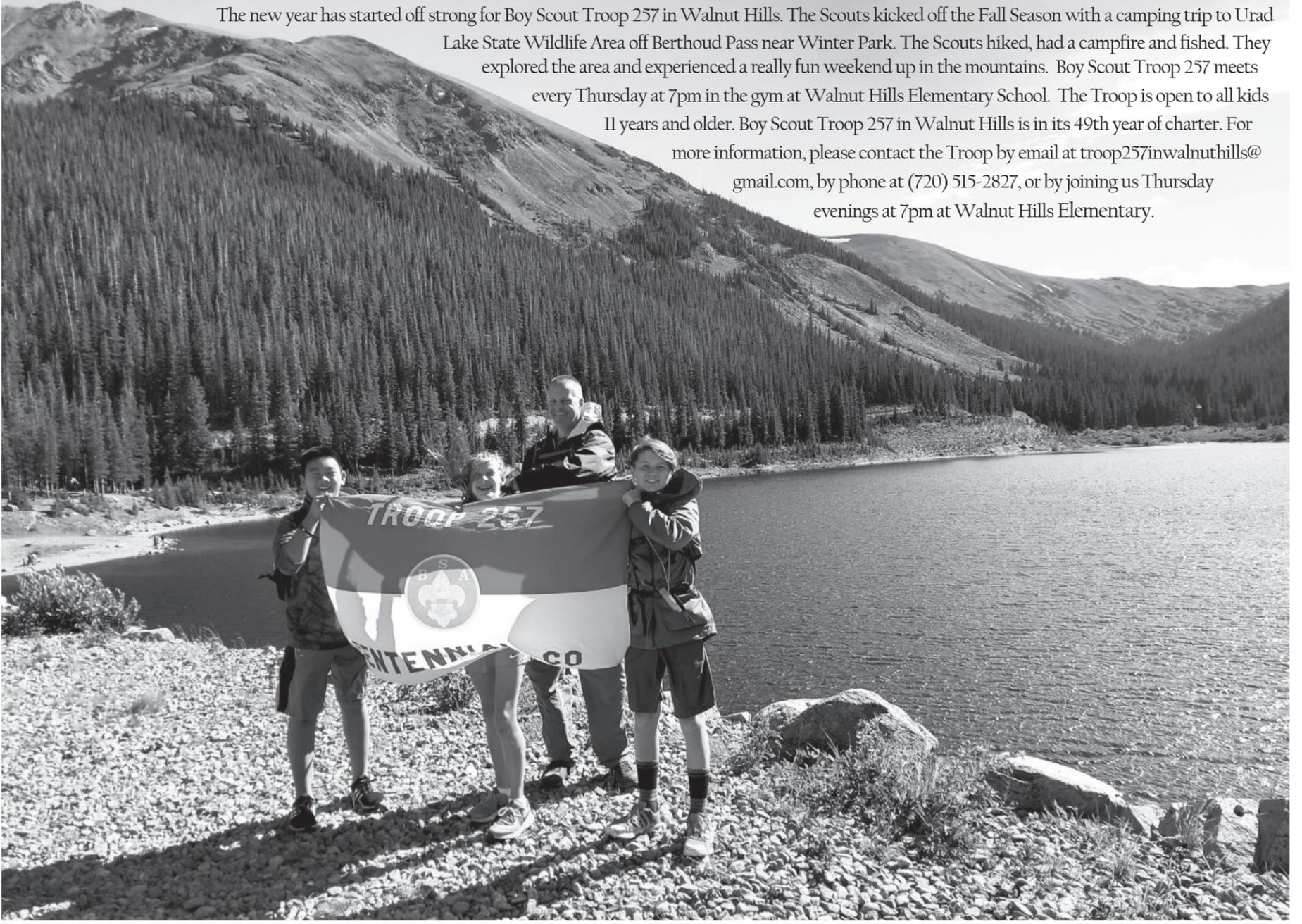
6980 S Holly Circle, Centennial, CO 80112

*Rates are based on loan type, term of loan (if fixed), credit score and loan to value. HELOC APR will vary based on Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal. APR will not exceed 18% or be lower than the Prime Rate. Estimated closing costs range from \$364-\$790, including origination and appraisal. Colorado residences only. Please refer to loan disclosures for details. Metrum Community Credit Union membership required. NMLS 663072



Troop 257 In Walnut Hills Hikes And Camps In The Colorado Mountains

The new year has started off strong for Boy Scout Troop 257 in Walnut Hills. The Scouts kicked off the Fall Season with a camping trip to Urad Lake State Wildlife Area off Berthoud Pass near Winter Park. The Scouts hiked, had a campfire and fished. They explored the area and experienced a really fun weekend up in the mountains. Boy Scout Troop 257 meets every Thursday at 7pm in the gym at Walnut Hills Elementary School. The Troop is open to all kids 11 years and older. Boy Scout Troop 257 in Walnut Hills is in its 49th year of charter. For more information, please contact the Troop by email at troop257inwalnuthills@gmail.com, by phone at (720) 515-2827, or by joining us Thursday evenings at 7pm at Walnut Hills Elementary.



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National Night Out A Huge Success!

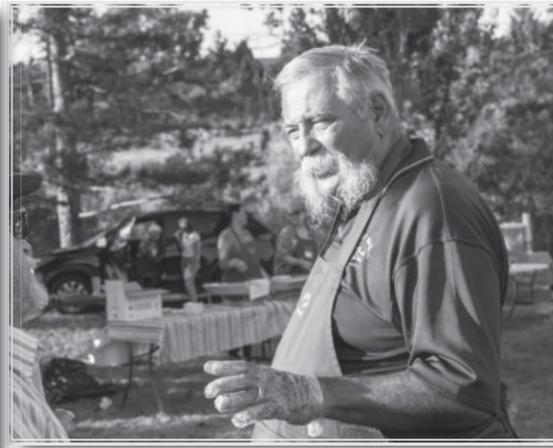
National Night Out in Walnut Hills is always so much fun! This year, the weather was great - if not a bit warm - the vendors were plentiful, the music was festive, the food was delicious and a good time was had by all! A big THANK YOU to Xfinity Comcast for sponsoring the event! A big THANK YOU to all our great vendors including Parks Taekwondo, Arapahoe Libraries, the City of Centennial Code Compliance, energy booth, City Councilman Mike Sutherland and Mayor Piko, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department, ICD Designs, Southgate Water and Sanitation, Walnut Hills Scholarship Fund, and PEO Women's Organization! The WHCA changed things up a bit this year and instead of BBQ we had Little Anita's cater the event. All in all, it sounded like the Mexican food was delicious and people were happy. If anything, next year we will need more food! The space was a little closer together due to the school getting a new roof. Thank you to all of the neighbors who came out and spent the evening with us. We hope you had a wonderful time! If you have any comments or suggestions or would like to participate as a vendor next year, please reach out to us at membership@walnuthillscolorado.org.

Photography Jesse Alcorta



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Walnut Hills
Elementary

 Cherry Creek
Schools



50th Anniversary

*Students, alumni, current and former staff, family and friends
are all invited to celebrate with us.*

Open House

Thursday, October 24, 2019

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

On the front lawn

Entertainment and cake provided!

8195 E. Costilla Blvd.

Centennial, CO 80112

50 years of Learning and Growing at Walnut Hills

Jan and Samantha Ragnow

(Both)

It is hard to believe Walnut Hills has been educating elementary aged students for 50 years! Multiple generations have sent their children through those doors to a world of wonder and learning. This is our story, one like many others. We hope we can help you remember Walnut Hills as it was when you or your children were here, and how it is today. Unique, innovative, where students are inspired to thrive, and develop a love of learning they will carry with them always.

I remember how it felt to walk into Walnut Hills on my first day of 4th grade. The excitement and laughter engulfed me and filled me with a sense of anticipation. Would I like my teacher? Would I make new friends? Was this going to be a good year for me?

1970 (Jan)

My family had moved into the neighborhood that summer. This was a new school for me. It was like nothing I had experienced. The classrooms were big and open, there weren't any desks, just tables and tote trays. One had my name on it! The library was in the middle of the hall and, more books than I had ever seen lined the walls, and there was a computer! I had never seen one before. Everything was so new. The art room wasn't a room at all but was in the hall where the conference room is now. Across the hall was a set of risers where we had choir. This school had only been open for a year. The most surprising things? My teacher was named Mr. Brickly, I had never had a male teacher before, and the kids in

my class were in third and fourth grade! All the classes were mixed age groupings. I knew this was something special, I was excited.

As I moved to 5th and 6th grade, I moved into Gold pod, where the innovation space is now. I spent two years there and loved every minute! This is where I decided to become a teacher.

2007 (Samantha)

Standing in line, the kids all looked the same. Some a little taller, some with brighter hair from swimming all summer. I did this every year but the first day still made me nervous. As the lines outside slowly poured through the doors and into the classroom, we eagerly searched for our desks, wondering who would hear about our summer adventures first. I stretched my neck and peeked across the hallway, where my mom was starting her first day too. Hearing her talk reminded me I wasn't alone. It wasn't long before I got pulled back into our room's activities, going over expectations, and making sure my desk was organized just right. Mrs. Lovely introduced our student teacher and we went over our daily schedules. Plus Time slips got passed around as we buzzed about what classes to take; Music with Mrs. Heath, Robotics with Mr. A. We rummaged through our backpacks for the crinkled copies of our summer work packets, bragged about what snacks had been packed for us, and shared what we thought would be the best parts of our year. Before I knew it, the school day was winding down. While most kids were getting ready to run out the doors to their parents, I was ready to fight the current across the hallway to beat my little brother

to my mom's classroom. With my hair in knots, and my clothing thoroughly wrinkled, I smiled, knowing it was another successful start to the school year.

2019 (Jan)

On the first day of school, I was as excited as I was in 4th grade, but now I am the teacher. As students stream through the door, I can see the same sense of anticipation on their faces. I know it is my job to help them feel safe, to teach them as much as possible and to nurture their love of learning, the same one I received as a student at Walnut Hills. I see that same dedication in my colleagues.

It was the education I received at Walnut Hills that drew me to teaching. 15 years ago, my life came full circle as I stepped into Walnut Hills as a fifth grade teacher! Now, I have taught for 31 years in the Cherry Creek district. Every day I am honored to teach children in our school, and privileged to be a part of the Walnut Hills family.

(Both)

Walnut Hills has always been a place to cultivate incredible learning experiences for all kids. Our innovation space and classrooms today, allow students to step outside the box of mainstream curriculum and experience education in ways that will help prepare them for life in the 21st century. We have always had leaders who believe in furthering children's creativity and strengthening their love of learning. Today, we are lucky to have Teolyn Bourbonnie leading the charge. Walnut Hills, where innovation is the key to success and children are the inspiration.

Connecting Generations at Walnut Hills

Walk into Walnut Hills on any day of the week and you will find senior citizens working with children. They are here to read with students, help them review math skills and standards, and support teachers. The Grandparent Program has been in existence for 25 years. Some volunteers have been at Walnut Hills for 10-20 years, assisting the same teachers! These retired senior citizens come from all walks of life, retired teachers, engineers and many other professions. Their willingness to help children succeed is a true asset to Walnut Hills. Our senior citizens do not fit the dictionary definition of retirement. They are energetic, willing to share their talents and to serve. I myself have been lucky to be a part of Walnut Hills for 49 years. My children went to Walnut Hills, as well as many of my grandchildren. This neighborhood school has always valued innovation from open classrooms to project-based learning, and has always valued human connection. The seniors who come here offer something to children many can't get anywhere else, a connection to an older generation. These volunteers are warm, caring and always supportive; an example of the true community spirit present at Walnut Hills. I myself, started at Walnut Hills as a volunteer nurse. When the district began to hire nurses, I worked the Cherry Creek district for 20 years. Then 25 years ago, I came back to Walnut Hills to volunteer, as well as help place volunteers with teachers matching their strengths and personalities. It is an honor to play a role in fostering relationships in such a caring environment.

Elaine Leikam

Happy Birthday Walnut Hills

After teaching there for 30 years, it is only with a grateful heart and appreciation that I was blessed to work there. So many great Field Days, Music Concerts, Staff Musicals, Camp Cheley visits, special traditions and day to day excellence, Walnut Hills has truly been Dedicated to Excellence for the last 50 years. As an Arts Integration School, my teaching was transformed and I was able to see what true passion for learning was about. The school has always been inclusive and respectful to its student population. When we were first designated as an ELA school, Walnut Hills became a global citizen in education. I am still in touch with many of our former students and am proud of the adults that they have become. Hard working, passionate and great examples of their neighborhood. Walnut Hills have been blessed with remarkable families who value and support public education. The teachers and administrators that have worked at Walnut Hills over the last 50 years reads like a who's who of exceptional teachers in the history of the Cherry Creek School District. It is my hope and prayer that Walnut Hills continues this tradition for another 50 year.

Chris Atencio



Fun Facts about Walnut Hills Elementary School... Then and Now

- The opening of Walnut Hills was September 2, 1969 at 9:00 a.m.
- School Lunch was \$.69 in 1969 and today it is \$3.25!
- In 1969/1970 the students only had to attend school for 6 hours a day. Currently, the students are in school for 6 hours and 45 minutes.
- The dress code for 1971 is as follows: Children come dressed like ladies and gentlemen. Shorts are not desirable dress. Long pants are required.
- Camp Cheley for the 5th graders has always been one of the most meaningful excursions of the school year. This tradition was started in 1969.
- In 1986, Walnut Hills went from being the "Superstars" to the "Cougars."
- In 2000, the school went through a full remodel.
- In 2001, Walnut Hills implemented the PLUS Time program where students could pick an elective class to attend once a week to focus on their interests.
- In 2018, the library went through a transformation into our Innovation Space!

Walnut Hills Memories

Congratulations, Walnut Hills on your 50th Year Celebrations! If the walls of the building could talk, they would tell you what an amazing school Walnut Hills has been for the last fifty years. As the former music teacher for 28 years, I have vivid and joyful memories of student concerts and productions, including two all school shows on the Cherry Creek High School stage. The Jayne Heath performance stage has been and still is lit up with talent, energy and exuberance of students who grew in their confidence and performance skills. There same students and their parents were delighted when staff took their talents and enthusiasm to the stage to strengthen community spirit. Performances didn't stop there as Walnut Hills took its giving spirit to sing at malls and retirement facilities in December or band concerts and events at the Walnut Hills amphitheater. Walnut Hills was also special for its Plus Time Program and Celebrations when students got the opportunity to explore beyond the curriculum in classes like ceramics, robotics, with Legos, guitar and scrapbooking.

The school also brought families together in PTCO sponsored events like the Fall Festival, the Turkey Trot and Grandparents Day, Veterans Day assemblies, Chili Game Night and the Sock Hops that were connected with the Phys Ed dance unit. And who could forget sledding and cross- country skiing in the backyard in winter or Field Day in the spring. Perhaps the culminating event for every fifth-grade student, anticipating in all the preceding years was the three-day long weekend at Camp Cheley with hikes, sing-a-longs and the legendary story of Stumpy. With each of these memories are the smiles on students' faces; of course, it was the students that made every event special, fun, and exciting.

The principals during my years at Walnut Hills were David Livingston, Nancy Flaming, Mary Terch, Henry (Biff) Taylor, Eric Flor, Cheryl Fullmer and Cyndi Burdick. The leadership might have changed but the personal connections did not, connections that were forged in joyful times and times of loss. Celebrations of staff member weddings, babies and retirements are some of my fondest memories. More poignant are memories of trees planted in honor and memory of losses like the year we lost five parents due to illnesses. A connection I have been especially blessed by is my friendship with teammate Chris Atencio who remains one of my best friends today and always. "Mr. A." continues to make Camp Cheley memorable for all graduating Walnut Hills students.

The Walnut Hills legacy continues as I now sing favorite songs with my granddaughters. My retirement would not be as sweet without all the wonderful memories I have of being the long-time music teacher at Walnut Hills Elementary. Celebrate well its 50 years and many more to come.

Jayne Heath

Memories

Wow.... hard to try and only think of one or two out of nine years. So I'll go with these two:

One of my favorite things to watch was a snowy day and Mr. Atencio would take all the kids outside to cross-country ski on the hill by the parking lot! Chris got donated skis from various sporting-good stores and we would put them to good use. The kids absolutely loved being at school on those cold snowy days!

Another favorite memory was the year the staff put on the musical Big Bad! It was the story of how the Big Bad Wolf, from the The Three Little Pigs, tried to prove his innocence at a trial and show he was wrongly accused of any crimes against the pigs. Mr. Atencio played the part of the wolf, (although his costume made him look like Elvis), Mrs. Assaad was the judge, Mr. Johnson had a key role, Mrs. Heath made sure everyone had CDs of the songs to learn from and I think everyone on the staff had a part. We had great fun practicing the songs (we had some pretty good singers) and performed to nearly sold out crowds! It was a great event.

I could list so many more.... great memories warm the soul. Please let everyone know I said hello and congratulations!
Cyndi Burdick

50 Years!!!

What an honor to be the current principal of Walnut Hills Elementary School! I am happy and proud to be part of the fifty-year legacy. Although I have only been part of the community for four years, I learned quickly that Walnut Hills Elementary School defines community. Community is defined as a "feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interest, and goals." Our school community embraces all families, all cultures, all races, all circumstances, and all students. Whether you are a child, mother, father, aunt, uncle, grandparent or friend, Walnut Hills is a family.

Walnut Hills has been dedicated to excellence and the success of all students since the doors opened fifty years ago. The school was one of the first school in the district to focus on innovative practices and learning. The school embraced the idea of collaboration and open classrooms in the 1970s. The school prided itself on being inclusive while providing unique learning experiences for all children. I have had the pleasure to meet and know the three principals before me. Each of these leaders described Walnut Hills as special, unique, family-oriented, child-focused, and caring of all. I would have to say, I one-hundred percent agree! I am honored and humbled to serve at Walnut Hills. The school will continue to be a child and community-focused.

It is with great pleasure I wish my amazing school a Happy 50th birthday! Continue to dream BIG Walnut Hills!
Teolyn Bourbonnie

This Is My 20th Year Teaching At Walnut Hills!

It has been so exciting seeing the changes that have occurred during this time. At the beginning of my career, Walnut Hills went through a big remodeling project that created individual classrooms and a new and improved art room, gym, and library. Shortly after this, we introduced Plus Time to our school which was when students got to choose multiple intelligence-based electives. As the years passed, we revamped Plus Time into STEAM. We introduced the LAUNCH Cycle giving students the opportunity to use design thinking as a way to solve problems that encourages risk-taking and creativity. Watching students create self-selected projects has been very rewarding! Happy Anniversary Walnut Hills!

Tonya Shovein



minutes!
nts for boys seems most appropriate.
rted by Tom Reed in the late 70's.

oster learning according to the "Multiple Intelligence"

Photo Jesse Alcorta

Dave Mathias principal 1969 - 1972

50 Years of Great Leadership

Jerry Kral principal 1972 - 1975



Jerry Kalamen principal 1975 - 1980

David Livingston principal 1980-1982



Nancy Flaming principal 1982-1986

Mary Terch principal 1986-1989



Henry "Biff" Taylor principal 1989 - 1996

Eric Flor principal 1996 - 2000



Cheryl Fulmer principal 2000 - 2007

Cyndi Burdick principal 2007 - 2016



Teolyn Bourbonnie principal 2016 - present

Photo Jesse Alcorta

South Suburban Halloween Events October 2019

Hoofin' it Through the Hollows 5k

At our 5K Halloween celebration dress in your Halloween best for the race and a chance to win various costume contests. Stay after the race for roasting s'mores by the campfire and a beer garden for the adults.

Who: All ages and abilities including canines

When: Sat, Oct 19, 5:45 pm

Where: deKoevend Park along the High Line Canal

Price: \$20 Adults, \$10 Youth

Haunted Hay Rides

Storytellers narrate an amusing tale while you travel in a vehicle drawn wagon down a haunted trail for scary family Halloween fun.

Who: All ages

When: Fri - Sat, Oct 25 - 26, 6 - 8:30 pm, every 30 minutes

Where: Plum Creek Stockon Stables

Price: \$12

Halloween Mini Golf Fun in October

Hole-O-Ween - Enjoy Halloween-themed holes and spooky kid-friendly decorations throughout the facility all month.

Glowball Night - Friday night, Oct 25. All mini golfers are provided a LED golf ball to utilize during their round.

Who: All ages

Where: Colorado Journey Mini Golf

Price: Regular pricing throughout the month; Add \$1 per person on Glowball Night

Halloween Party at the Lone Tree Grill

Wear your Halloween costume. There will be a specialty dinner menu, drink specials, and a costume contest with great prizes. Throughout the evening, listen to the live music of Josh Blackburn.

Who: Adults

When: Thu, Oct 31, 5 - 9 pm

Where: Lone Tree Grill at the Lone Tree Golf Course & Hotel

Price: Available at the party

Castlewood Library To Close On September 30 For A Remodel - Library Will Reopen Next Spring

Castlewood Library (6739 S. Uinta St., Centennial) will be closed for approximately six months to complete a remodel of the facility. The remodeled library will feature an updated space with natural light; increased accessibility to library materials; an enclosed children's area; a larger makerspace; a lounge area with coffee vending; improved traffic flow in the parking lot; and convenient driver-side book drop.

During the closure, patrons can pick up previously placed holds at Koelbel Library (5955 S. Holly St., Centennial). Patrons also can choose to place future holds, pick up and return materials, and take advantage of library services at one of our nearby Arapahoe Libraries, including Koelbel Library and Southglenn Library (6972 S. Vine St., Centennial).

The Library on Wheels will provide intermittent, limited library services and be parked at Greenwood Retail Plaza, which is across the street from Castlewood Library.

For the latest updates during the remodel, including reopening information and the Library on Wheels schedule, visit arapahoelibraries.org/library-remodels/#castlewood



Dear Walnut Hills Community,

My name is Roberta Ballard, and I am the new principal at Dry Creek Elementary! I am excited to be joining the Dry Creek community as I've heard such wonderful things about the school and community. I've been a part of the Cherry Creek School District since 2004 when I moved back to the Denver metro area from Texas and began teaching

first grade at Sunrise Elementary. In addition to working in Cherry Creek, both of my children have attended school in the district with my youngest, Mia, beginning her senior year. As I embark on this new year, I am committed to continuing the work at Dry Creek to uphold our school's mission of a Tradition of Excellence for Our Children. We will have several opportunities over the year for families and community members to meet with us and learn about our goals this year to provide students with opportunities to learn in a safe, inclusive and engaging environment. Below are some of the upcoming events we have scheduled:

- Thursday, September 19 Explorer Expedition (formally the Fun Run) K/1: 8:30 am, 2/3: 9:15 am, 4/5: 10:00 am
- Thursday, September 26 PASS meeting 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, October 2 Book Fair Parent Night, 6:00-7:30 pm
- Friday, October 4 Breakfast Buddies, 7:00 am
- Wednesday, October 9 Larkburger Dining Night Out
- Thursday, October 10 School Accountability Committee meeting, 5:30 pm
PTCO General meeting 6:30 pm

One exciting change to share is our transition to a new mascot. We are now officially The Explorers! This is an exciting transition, and as the weeks and months go on, you will continue to see our new mascot become an integral part of who we are at Dry Creek. Again, I'm thrilled to get to know the Dry Creek community and look forward to our adventure ahead!

Warmly,

Roberta Ballard - Principal



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Letter to Walnut Hills A Student's Academic Journey

With the beginning of the school year passing, I am reminded of the many milestones and accomplishments my students will achieve. As a Special Education teacher, my students' accomplishments can be different than typical students, but just as meaningful. Throughout my tenure as a teacher, I have worked with a wide variety of students with disabilities and struggles. Sometimes these struggles can be more evident than others. The inability to walk and physical restrictions are a lot more evident than the inability to read fluently and those limitations. Students' milestones too can be more or less evident. Traditionally, students are celebrated for their exceptional academics, physical prowess, popularity, or completion of a program, among other things. Sometimes these are realistically unobtainable for students with disabilities, but that's okay.

For some of the students I work with, being able to read the instructions for their favorite board game and setting it up for their friends holds the same value as being valedictorian. Being able to hold a fork to feed themselves holds the same value as scoring the winning touchdown at the Homecoming Game. Being able to make eye contact and saying "Hello" to someone holds the same value as being crowned Prom King or Queen. Being able to give change back to a "customer" at the classroom store holds the same value as acing the SAT. Celebrating their 21st birthday with friends as they say goodbye to High School and join an assisted community holds the same value as being accepted and going away to an Ivy League College. While these and other accomplishments are non-traditional, they mean the world to the students and their families, but are not often seen or celebrated with a wider audience. Just as each student is unique with their challenges, so is their academic journey. Whether it be a traditional academic schedule, repeating grades, modified diploma program or a traditional college versus a trade school, students will be faced with a variety of challenges and will each have their own struggles to overcome and adapt to. No matter the road students take on their academic journey, they will grow, accomplish and succeed when celebrated, accepted and supported. With this letter I hope to shine a light on the many students with special needs, and as the school year progresses, let's take the time to celebrate all the accomplishments of our students and children.

From an enabler of every child's best chance,
Kenan Gregg

Items Of Interest

Some Thoughts About Success

To have laughed often and much. To win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children. To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends. To appreciate beauty. To find the best in others. To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or redeemed social condition. To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, this is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, and doing well whatever you can do.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Things turn out best for people who make the best of the way things turn out.

John Wooden

The 2nd Ten Commandments - Author Unknown

1. Thou shall not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. Thou shall not be fearful, for most things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shall not cross bridges before you come to them for no one has yet succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. Thou shall face each problem as it comes. You can only handle one at a time anyway.
5. Thou shall not take problems to bed with you for they make very poor bedfellows.
6. Thou shall not borrow other people's problems, they can better care for them than you can.
7. Thou shall not try to relive yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone, concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now.
8. Thou shall be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear different ideas from your own.
9. Thou shall not be "bogged down" by frustration for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive actions.
10. Thou shall count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one

Yoga in the Park

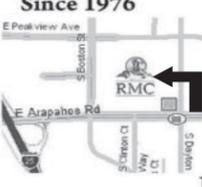
A very big THANK YOU to all of the participants that came and did yoga in the park this summer with the WHCA! We had a wonderful turn out each morning that it was held (even on the very cold day)! We have received so much positive feedback about this event that we will be adding several dates in June, July and August next year! Please feel free to invite a friend, sibling, parent, kid, etc. This event is for all ages and abilities and one that is the more the merrier! Also, a special thank you to Anar, the instructor. Anar, who currently teaches at Denver Iyengar Center, offers private yoga classes and does yoga in the park regularly at Eisenhower Park in south Denver. Please keep an eye on the newsletter, WHCA website and events calendar distributed in Feb/March for more information.



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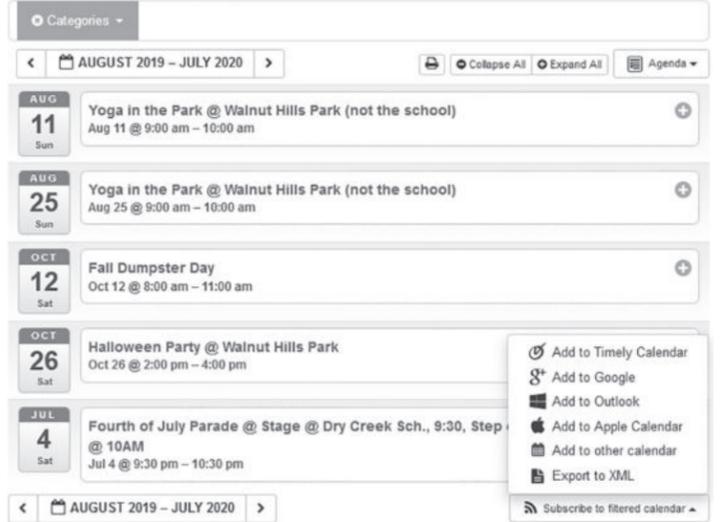
TROOP 457

www.troop457online.org

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Event Calendar

Our website walnuthillscolorado.org now offers an Event Calendar which you can view using your own personal Outlook, Google, etc. calendar application. Simply click on "Subscribe to filtered calendar" on the bottom right, select the type of calendar you are using and follow the prompts.



Mauzie's Annual Open House

Mauzie's was established in 2006 by artist Mauzie Mays, who once lived with her son Gabriel Mays in Walnut Hills. From her humble roots Mauzie's has grown into a reputable fine jeweler that can do everything from custom designed jewelry to certified cleaning your vintage Rolex watch. With the simple goal of "taking care of our customer's first", Mauzie's can do what other staid jewelers avoid. Mauzie, the designer, is establishing her niche brand while expanding into other fine jewelry ventures. Recently remodeled, you can browse the showroom while having your watch battery changed or your jewelry cleaned. The store feels larger than its boutique size. Want a custom engagement ring or pendant with a two-carat diamond? No problem, this is our specialty. "Normally you ask for a custom ring and the jewelry salesperson will cringe. They would rather sell you something out of the case because it takes less time. Not us, we can take your ideas and go through hand sketched picture to CAD rendering and finished piece in about the same time as ordering a designer piece. Concerned about quality? We go through the same processes as the big manufactures but at a local level. Concerned about the price? Our low overhead allows us to create better value to our clients. "The store itself feels familiar and comfortable. It has an eclectic mix of new and old. We love our Estate jewelry for its workmanship and value. However, my designs are perhaps more contemporary. Our staff of four has more jewelry experience than your typical store. We all started in our early 20's and loved it. I guess it's our passion", says Mauzie. Our annual open house will be held Saturday November 16th 10am to 7pm. Please stop by and visit.



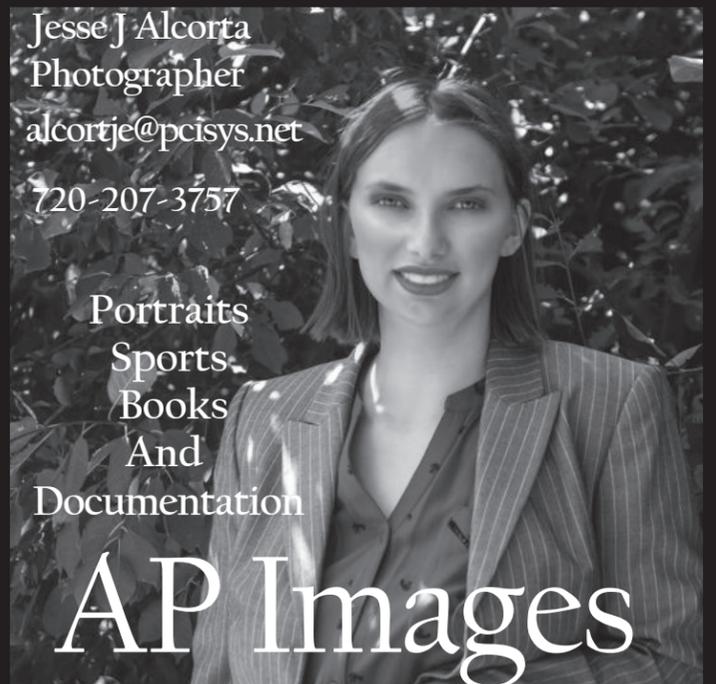
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**Come have a Beer with Us!
Walnut Hills Night Out in February**

Last year, the WHCA tried a new event - We invited neighbors to come and spend an evening with us at Resolute Brewing. It was an overwhelming success!! We would love to do it again this year and so have started planning the next event. We have reached out to TING to ask if they would once again be willing to sponsor. If there are any local business that would like to donate door prizes, please let us know!! We can be reached at membership@walnuthillscolorado.com. Please keep your eyes open for more information in the coming months. We look forward to spending the evening with you!

Fall GID Update

So far this fall the GID has been steadily working through several items that neighbors have brought to our attention. In addition to the normal landscape maintenance and trash pick up the GID has also accomplished the following projects:

- Branch Removal - a neighbor contacted us and let us know that there was a low hanging branch on Quebec that was blocking the view of on-coming traffic. The branch was a hazard! The GID removed the branch and High Altitude disposed of it.
 - Irrigation at Unita - The GID has been working through the new irrigation system along Arapahoe off and on all summer. In the past few weeks, several neighbors have let us know that large amounts of water were coming from the irrigation and into the street. On several occasions, the GID went out and replaced emitters to stop leaks. Over the weekend of September 21st, the GID replaced and re-routed approximately 15 feet of the crushed and broken irrigation line. Hopefully, this will solve the problem.
 - Graffiti Removal - Unfortunately, our first instance of graffiti on the sound wall occurred early/mid-September. The GID worked with the City of Centennial and the Arapahoe Sheriffs office to get the graffiti cleaned up. There is still a "shadow" that the GID will work to remove further. Please, if you see suspicious activity, or graffiti occurring, call the non-emergency line for the Sheriff's office at 303-795-4711 and help keep the neighborhood safe and looking good!
- The GID has already started looking toward next year and is planning to undertake the following projects:
- Concrete curb along Dry Creek at Quebec to hold rocks in place
 - Block retaining wall at Unita and Arapahoe to address the steep slope

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or project ideas, please reach out to the GID Project Manager, Julie, at neighborhood6@walnuthillscolorado.org or contact us via the "Contact Us" Page on the Walnut Hills Civic Association Website at www.walnuthillscolorado.org

Urban Center Zone District Standards

The City of Centennial adopted the Urban Center Zone District Standards last month. These new standards will be required for the Jones District (just north of IKEA) Regulating Plan amendment.

A summary of the changes adopted can be found on the Walnut Hills Civic Association website and/or can be requested at membership@walnuthillscolorado.org. In addition, here are the links to the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting Hearing <https://onbase.centennialco.gov/OnBaseAgendaOnline/Meetings/ViewMeeting?id=1492&doctype=1> and the City Council Hearing <https://onbase.centennialco.gov/OnBaseAgendaOnline/Meetings/ViewMeeting?id=1528&doctype=2> for these changes.

If there are any other questions regarding these updated standards, please reach out to Jenny Houlne, Principal Planner at 303-754-357 or jhoulne@centennialco.gov

Check out the latest Walnut Hills Civic Association happenings and pay the \$25 dues online via PayPal. Visit: www.WalnutHillsColorado.org		
2019 Activities	Date/Time	Location
Fall Dumpster Day	Sat. Oct 12 8 am – 11 am or full	Walnut Hills School Parking Lot
Halloween Party	Sat. October 26, 2-4 pm Rain/snow date: Sat. November 2, 2-4 pm	Walnut Hills Park
Jan/Feb 2020 Events	Event dates and information to be announced Check our website and/or watch the Newsletter!	
WHCA Board of Directors Meeting	Monthly - every 2 nd Thursday at 7:00 pm	Metrum Credit Union Open to all residents

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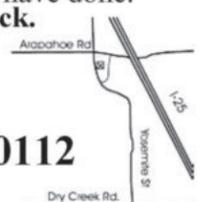
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