

August 29, 2017

Dear Parent,

Tomorrow we will launch the 6th annual **Walk With Grace** walk-a-thon fundraiser! For those of you new to Grace School, this is an annual fundraiser in which our students raise pledges to support our school! For returning parents.... yes, you read this correctly. **The annual walk-a-thon is moving to the fall!**



This year's walk will be on Friday, October 6th!

Enclosed with this letter is a packet of materials about the event and details on how your child will participate. But here are some quick "need to know" items:

- All students will walk, regardless of pledges raised
- Our goal is to raise \$20,000
- In place of past food drives, we will tithe our contributions to ALS (www.alsa.org)
- Students will participate in a "hands-on" service project immediately following the walk
- Parents are encouraged to volunteer
- Half-day of school (so lunch will not be served)

Please refer to the following informational pages for the specifics of this special day. If you have any questions after reading this information or would like to volunteer, please contact Brian Schultz at bschultz@graceriverforest.org or Becky Morgan at rebecca.morgan04@gmail.com.

Money raised through **Walk with Grace** will directly support the educational programs at Grace Lutheran School. Fundraisers such as this, in combination with school family contributions and support from the congregation, make the strong Christian education provided at Grace possible. Thank you for supporting your child's participation in **Walk with Grace**.

Serving Grace,

Bill Koehne, Principal
Brian Schultz, Assistant Administrator

PLEDGE INFORMATION

We hope you will assist your child in contacting friends and family about supporting **Walk with Grace** through monetary pledges. Our goal as a school is to raise **\$20,000!** Each family is encouraged to set their own goal, but we hope for 100% schoolwide participation. **And, to help support and raise awareness for ALS, for every \$100 that a family raises, one entry will be placed into our Ice Bucket Challenge Raffle. Don't miss out on the chance to dump an ice bucket on Mr. Koehne... or maybe even your teacher!** Don't forget, the more money your family raises, the more chances your child gets to drench your principal! (*Why an ice bucket? See alsa.org/fight-als/ice-bucket-challenge.html*)

There are three different ways in which your child can collect pledges:

1. Sign up through PledgeStar (<http://pledgestar.com/grace>), a user-friendly web-based system, which allows you to collect pledges from family and friends through email and the web (*info sheet attached*) **OR**
2. Send a personalized pledge request letter to your friends and family (*one copy attached*) **OR**
3. Fill out the Pledge Form as you request and collect pledges directly from friends and family (*copy attached*)

All of the above forms can also be found on the Grace School homepage as well as with Mrs. Maggio at the school office. (*Please Note: Grace pays fees on credit card payments, so cash and checks are preferable, even if a pledge is made on the PledgeStar website.*)

Any completed pledge forms and money collected should be turned into your child's classroom teacher by Wednesday, October 4th. Prizes will be awarded to top participating classes. Stay tuned for details!

WALK INFORMATION:

Students will walk varying distances based on their grade level. These distances will range from one mile for preschoolers to six miles for junior high students. **NEW and EXCITING** this year, students will all be walking together as a school! They will start out together, with their chapel buddies, and then break off by age level. Walking with buddies will surely give students time to bond with each other! At the end of the walk, students will come back to the school to participate in a service project.

PLEASE NOTE: We will dismiss EARLY (11:30- early childhood, 11:45- grades 1-8).
There will be a snack in the morning but no lunch served. Only the children staying for extended care will need a lunch that day.

ALS AND SERVICE PROJECT INFORMATION:

Since we are changing the season of our walk, and we just walked last spring, we will not be collecting food this year. However, service and charity will still be a part of our day! This year **Walk with Grace** will be tithing (10% of all money raised) and donating this amount to ALS. We do this in memory of our former church and school member Kris Grahnke through his team Gronk's Grace. Additionally, students will take part in a hands-on service project immediately following the walk. Students will learn more about tithing and ALS at an upcoming chapel service. *To learn more about ALS see www.alsa.org.*

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:

As you can imagine, we need lots of help from parents both before and during the event on October 6th. Please keep in mind, it is only a **half-day** this year which may help open up your schedule to volunteer. Volunteer opportunities include being a walk leader, a water station attendant, a service project supervisor, preparing and distributing snacks, checking in volunteers, set up, clean up, and more. If you'd like to be a part of the team please contact Brian Schultz or Becky Morgan by email at bschultz@gracriverforest.org or rebecca.morgan04@gmail.com. It is sure to be a fun day!

Grace Lutheran School *Walk with Grace* Fundraising System

Fun

Easy



Information on PledgeStar

- PledgeStar is a web-based system that makes it easy to request pledges
 - Family and friends can make secure credit card donations online
 - People who use it typically raise twice as much as those who don't
-
- **Go to <http://pledgestar.com/grace>**
 - **Enter your name and email address, then click Register**
 - **Follow the instructions on-screen**
-
- When you finish, the system emails pledge requests to your family and friends.
 - You get notified each time a pledge is made.
 - You can track your pledge progress online.

We're encouraging every family to send out **at least 10** emails using PledgeStar. Research shows that 60% of people who receive an email will donate - so the more people you send to, the more pledges you will receive. The system takes pledges by credit card and check. Grace pays fees on credit card payments, so cash and checks are preferable. We will continue to use paper pledge forms in addition to the web platform to encourage pledges in the neighborhood or at an event as well as accommodate people who don't have e-mail.

Call 1-888-598-7510 if you need help with anything related to the PledgeStar process.



Dear _____,

On Friday, October 6th, I will be walking in the Grace Lutheran School walk-a-thon, *Walk with Grace*. It's a fun way to raise money for my school.

Our Walk with Grace also includes a service component. As a school, we will be giving 10% of all money raised to the ALS Association (www.alsa.org).

I hope that you will support my walk by donating to Grace Lutheran School.

My personal fundraising goal is \$ _____.

Your donation directly supports Grace Lutheran School. Thank you for supporting my school!

Please send this sheet and your check to the school 7300 W. Division St. River Forest, IL 60305 by Wednesday, October 4th. You can also donate online through our PledgeStar fundraising website. If you have not already been sent an email from me to donate through PledgeStar, please let me know if you would like one. Thank you!

Love, _____

I will donate: _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

Student supported: _____

_____ My check is enclosed _____ I will donate online via PledgeStar (request email from student)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

