

Solomon Principal Newsletter

May 6, 2024

Dear Solomon Family--

First and foremost, this year's Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon was a blast! It was a beautiful day with lots of smiles from the students and cheers from the Solomon community. A number of Solomon grads were in attendance as well. Days like that show the beauty and love we have in our community. I would like to single out and thank Mr. and Mrs. Cramer, Mr. Levy, and Mrs. Gabriel for all of their work behind the scenes, as well as the dozens of volunteers who assisted us on Friday.

Amazingly, we are just a few hundred dollars short of \$20,000 for our fundraising efforts. The last time we were able to contribute that much to arts instruction, it translated to nearly a semester-worth of visual arts instruction for all of our students. Let's get over the \$20k hump and see if we can get a little closer to our goal of \$25,000. If you haven't had the chance to contribute to our fundraising efforts, please click [here](#) to learn more.

You know what our next big community event will be...International Night on May 31! Hard copies of solicitations for volunteers and donations went out via kidmail late last week, and we will share a digital version shortly.

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- In this week's pictures in Snap, we have scenes from our 7/8th graders flag football playoff game and Alderman Nugent joining us at Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon.
- This past week we learned that two of our 8th graders will be receiving Seal of Biliteracy awards from the district—congratulation to Michelle M. and Mohammad S.! We should learn about our 5th graders who took the same biliteracy assessment this coming week. For more about the Seal of Biliteracy and the benefits it confers, please click [here](#).
- Speaking of biliteracy, we had a great Bilingual Advisory Committee meeting this past week, facilitated by our English Language Program Teacher, Mrs. Jones. We hosted a guest from the Rohingya Cultural Center, who spoke about ESL and citizenship programming available for adults at their facility on Devon Avenue. For more information, please click [here](#).
- Last call! Staff Appreciation Week will be celebrated at Solomon during the week of May 6-10, 2024, and we can use your help! As part of our celebration, we will be stocking our lounge with a variety of items to promote wellness and show our gratitude to our staff. If you are interested in contributing to this initiative, please visit this [Amazon Wish List](#) and purchase some items that will go directly to staff. We've also had families provide lunch and other wonderful gestures; if you are interested in doing so, please reach out to Principal Gamble at crgamble@cps.edu to schedule. Any way you can contribute—even if it is a hand-written note of gratitude—means the world to our staff. Thank you to the few

families who have already contributed—we appreciate you!

- Barn Hill will be visiting us on Friday, May 10, so if you would like to order any photos, please have your student bring the fee to hand directly to the photographers that day.
- Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now underway, any day between 9:15-1:00 and 2:00-3:45 in our main office. If your child is currently enrolled in grades K-7, there is no action required—your spot is reserved. For incoming Kindergarten families, as well as any student new to the neighborhood or joining us through a GoCPS application, we will need you to come to the main office to register. Click [here](#) for what information you will need to bring with you.
- For all of our incoming Kindergarten students and families, we are hosting our annual [Kindergarten Meet and Greet](#) on Thursday, May 23, at 9:15am. Students will have a chance to be together in the Kindergarten classroom with Ms. McReynolds and Ms. Leiva, and parents will have the opportunity to learn more about the school and each other. Parents, if you like, you can stick around afterwards to complete the registration paperwork.
- Additionally, we are offering a “Kick-off to Kindergarten” program for our incoming Kindergarten students, from June 24 to July 26. Advanced sign-up is required. We are getting close to meeting the minimum number of registrants that we will need to be able to administer the program, which will be taught by our Kindergarten teaching staff of Ms. McReynolds and Ms. Leiva. For more information about the program, please click [here](#) or call our main office at 773-534-5226.
- Registration for new Pre-Kindergarten families for the full-day program in the 2024-2025 school year is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, and Thursday, June 6, from 1:15-4pm both days. Application results will be shared by the district this month. Again, registration is not required for returning families.
- Registration continues for the YMCA of Chicago’s fee-based program at Solomon, lasting from June 10 to August 9 this summer. For more information about the YMCA programming at Solomon, please click [here](#). If you would like to learn more about the program, Enrique from YMCA will be at Solomon on Tuesday, May 7, at 9:15 in our lobby to answer any questions.
- The Diverse Learners Recovery Fund is a collaboration between the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities and Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc., dedicated to aiding families of students with disabilities affected by COVID-19. It operates as a lottery-style grant drawing, offering a one-time cash grant of \$500 to eligible K-12 students with disabilities. Up to 8,000 applicants will be selected through the lottery to receive the grant. Submitting an eligible application does not guarantee you will receive the funds. For more information, please click [here](#).

Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization

- Our Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a parent and staff leadership group that promotes community and supports Solomon in our strategic plan. Please click [here](#) to read more about their mission and vision, as well as the dates for many of this year's PTO-led events.
- Join us at our final regularly-scheduled meeting of the year on May 14 at 8am in the Solomon library. We will be discussing the end results of Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon and the school supply kit ordering timeline, as well as plan for the 2024-2025 school year.

Important Solomon Links

- To report a COVID-19 positive test, click [here](#).
- To find Solomon's breakfast and lunch menus, click [here](#) (search for "Solomon"). To learn more about the district's meals and nutrition program, click [here](#).
- To see our entry and exit procedures, please click [here](#).
- To find any Solomon staff member, their position, and their contact information, click [here](#) for our organizational chart.
- To register for before and/or after-school child care with the YMCA of Chicago, hosted in our lunchroom, please follow the directions in [this link](#).
- Please click [here](#) to read more about the differences between Level I and Level II volunteers and to complete the application process.
- To see our year-long community calendar, click [here](#).
- To see our year-long assessment calendar, click [here](#).
- Solomon spirit wear purchases can be made through our partner, Squadlocker. Check out unique Solomon gear [here](#).
- Student fees were approved by our Local School Council this past July. Please click [here](#) to see the student fee structure for this year and the methods of payment.
- Class supply lists are linked [here](#) and at our school website, solomon.cps.edu.

School Calendars

- **May 14:** Friends of Solomon School PTO meeting (library, 8am)
- **May 14:** Parent Advisory Council meeting (Room 112, 4:15pm)
- **May 14:** Local School Council meeting (library, 5:30pm)
- **May 27:** No School for Memorial Day
- **May 31:** International Night (Solomon gym, 6pm)
- **June 3:** 8th Grade Graduation (Solomon turf field, 10am)
- **June 6:** Final Day of School for Students