

P.S. 321 GREEN AND HEALTHY WALKATHON

April 7, 2016

Dear P.S 321 Families:

Our EIGHTH WALKATHON to raise money for organizations doing important work locally and globally will be held on FRIDAY, MAY 13. Over the years, our WALKATHON FOR A HEALTHY PLANET has helped our students to feel proud and hopeful about their contribution to the larger society and their ability to help make the world a better place.

This year's WALKATHON will begin at 8:50am on Friday, May 13. We will walk up 3rd Street to Prospect Park. Our entire school will then walk a 2- mile inner loop in Prospect Park. Parents are welcome to join us. It is incredibly moving to see 1600 members of our school community walking around the park.

On the back of this letter is a sponsor form and we hope children will collect money from family or friends. Any amount is welcome and modest cash contributions- \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00-are fine, since we want to make sure all children can participate. Children may want to sponsor themselves or friends from allowance money or money they have saved. In a school with close to 1,500 children, even the smallest contributions add up. Larger checks are also welcome of course!

This year, our SLT (School Leadership Team) came up with four possible organizations to support, based on recommendations from parents and staff members. Children voted for two of these organizations. Based on the vote, this year's WALKATHON will be raising money for the following organizations:

Student Conservation Association (SCA)

Through the SCA, students around the country work to keep our parks healthy and beautiful. New York City Kids, from all different backgrounds (including a few who went to PS 321), team up and go to parks throughout the city. Some of these parks are in poorer neighborhoods and many have been neglected for years. The kids who are participating get to know the parks and wild spaces in our city, and they learn about the environment and how to protect it. They remove invasive plants so that the native plants have a better chance to grow. They may pick up litter or debris on beaches or playgrounds so that children have a safer place to play. The SCA also works in national parks across the country.

World Connect/Kids Connect

World Connect is a nonprofit organization that works in countries around the world to fund and implement projects in Economic Opportunity, Education, The Environment, and Health. If PS 321 raises \$5000 for World Connect/Kids Connect, we could fund a youth leadership program to do six environmental projects, such as creating gardens or installing trashcans in communities in Morocco. If we raise \$11,000 for World Connect/Kids Connect, we could fund a project that would install new water wells, water storage containers, and hand-washing stations at eight elementary schools and a community health center in Cambodia. World connect works with local leaders to determine which projects are worthy and doable.

Representatives of these organizations will be meeting with students on some of the grades before the WALKATHON so that students understand the work of the organizations. **We encourage you to participate in this fundraiser by having your child fill in the sponsor form on the back, collect money, and return the form and money to the teacher-if possible by Monday, May 16. Remember, no amount of money is too small. If you can get 5 sponsors great—one is fine too!** **THOSE SENDING CHECKS CAN DECIDE WHICH ORGANIZATION THEY WANT TO MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SCA or World Connect. Cash that we collect will be divided equally between the two organizations. All contributions are tax-deductible.** Thanks so much for your support.

Sincerely,

The PS 321 School Leadership Team

P.S. 321 Green and Healthy Walkathon
Sponsor Sheet—2016

I _____ (student's name) am participating in a school-wide WALKATHON IN PROSPECT PARK ON MAY 13, 2016. This WALKATHON is to raise money to help make our world a better place. I am asking you to sponsor me by donating money to the STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (SCA) or WORLD CONNECT. If you write a check, you can make it out to either one of these organizations; if you give cash we will divide the cash receipts equally between the two organizations. Thank you!

Sponsor's Name

_____ Amount _____

Sponsor's Name

_____ Amount _____

Sponsor's Name

_____ Amount _____

Sponsor's Name

_____ Amount _____

Sponsor's Name

_____ Amount _____

Please collect money, complete the sponsor form above (if you have more sponsors just add them), and return in a sealed envelope marked "Walkathon \$" to your child's teacher or the main office by May 16, 2016