



Walter Johnson High School Education Foundation, Inc.

6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

wjedfoundation.org

May 1, 2008

Dear WJ HS Education Foundation Donor,

As a valued donor, we'd like report to you on the status of the Walter Johnson High School Education Foundation, Inc. (WJ Ed Foundation) and preview some upcoming events. We hope you will be able to join us for our "Appreciation and Appetizers" prior to the spring instrumental music concert on May 22nd to receive our personal thanks for your support and to learn more about us.

In the past year and a half, the WJ Ed Foundation has grown from an idea to an organization that is well on its way to making a real impact for our school, students and the WJ community. Through the generosity of our parents, alumni, and other supporters, we've raised over \$100, 000. We initially committed to funding the purchase of digital sound equipment and video equipment to meet a goal to support enhancements to the renovation of the auditorium. We've always had world-class musicians and performers and now we have state-of- the-art facilities.

Last spring, we held a gala prior to the spring musical that included dinner, a tour of the new auditorium, and a ticket to the play. We also unveiled a "seat project" selling engraved "seat" plaques to honor students, staff and families. The first installation of seat plaques is hanging in cases outside the auditorium. There are still a few seats left—for information on purchasing one go to our website wjedfoundation.org.

Currently we are raising funds to equip a new language lab. MCPS agreed to include a lab in the design of the modernization and the WJ Ed Foundation, working with Dr. Garran, agreed to equip the lab. The cost of hardware and software could reach as high as \$50, 000. We were pleased to be able to present Dr. Garran a check for \$20, 000 recently as a partial payment on the equipment. The lab equipment will have a trial run for AP testing this spring and be ready for language and ESOL class use next fall.

We have started a new project selling engraved brick pavers that will provide another opportunity to leave a permanent memento of your child's time at WJ and to help raise funds for the WJ Ed Foundation to continue our goals of supporting the school and students. (*See the attached order form or go to our website*).

In addition to our goal to support enhancements to the modernization—and we still have a year left of modernizing the building and two years for the site work—the WJ Ed Foundation was pleased to offer an initial grant program to our staff for professional development. These funds supported two of our staff in opportunities such as advanced

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President- Marney Jacobs; Vice President and Secretary- Gayle Forst; Treasurer, Tom Murphy;

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course work. We are also committed to supporting programs for students. Change in MPCS policy for vending machine commissions has dramatically altered the school's discretionary funds. We feel that it is important to support Dr. Garran's efforts to recognize student achievement, encourage minority and ESOL participation in college-bound programs, and other student activities and will provide funds as needed.

As we develop our strategic plan and calendar for the next year, we look forward to completing payment on the auditorium upgrades (the final bills are not yet in) and language lab equipment and to working with Dr. Garran to determine other enhancements for the school. These may include a recording studio and black box theatre, and there is always a need for more technology to keep up with ever changing needs. For example, we'd like to help equip each classroom with Elmo's and LCD projectors and tuners to do away with the need for televisions and overhead projectors. Some of these items are needs and some are wants-- we want to use the modernization as an opportunity to have the best and most up-to-date equipment for our students.

As we plan future events, we need a core of volunteers other than the Board members. Please let us know if you'd like to help out occasionally with fundraisers, mailings, and other activities. Use our website to keep up with activities, in the planning are: a gala (see below) on October 4th, participation in the annual Wildcat Weekend, the next Kensington 8K race, and hopefully some get-togethers for different age groups throughout the summer.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to a fun and exciting social event that we are planning for Saturday evening October 4, 2008 (location to be announced at a later date). The event will be an opportunity for current and prospective donors to celebrate our success this past year as well as commence our fundraising for the new year. We need your help in achieving our goal of raising our next \$100,000. Please gather your WJ friends and alumnae (over 21 years old) and plan on joining us for an evening of socializing, dancing, eating and entertainment. In addition to your attendance, we are actively seeking corporate and personal sponsors and donations for prizes and a silent auction. Enclosed is a "Save the Date" magnet that we hope you will place on your refrigerator. Full details will be sent during the summer. We hope that you will be able to join us for the party and kick off another successful year for the Foundation. We look forward to seeing you on October 4.

We are proud to have played a role in supporting WJ HS through the initial efforts of the WJ Ed Foundation. . We appreciate the donations from many parents, alumni, two family foundations, the Kensington 8K Race, and several in honor of alumni Classes, including the Class of 1958. We look forward to involving more of our community through social functions, fundraising, and support of Walter Johnson High School. .

On behalf of the Board our sincere thanks,

Marney Jacobs, President

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