

ÉMJS PAC'S 4TH ANNUAL
WALK-A-THON
 APRIL 25, 2025

Student's First & Last Name

Parent Email

Teacher

Division

****Please return this form to your teacher during the week of April 21-25, 2025****

Sponsor's Name	Pledge Amount	Collected? (Y/N)
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PLEDGES COLLECTED		

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Pledges submitted via (<u>check all that apply, submissions via hotlunches site preferred</u>): emjs.hotlunches.net <input type="checkbox"/> sd61.schoolcashonline.com <input type="checkbox"/> cash in envelope <input type="checkbox"/>		
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**** Please circle T-shirt size if pledges \geq \$40**** YOUTH: S / M / L / XL ADULT: S / M / L / XL

Parent signature: _____

Questions? PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE. Email the Walk-A-Thon Organizers directly: contact@emjspac.ca

For committee use only – Prize level achieved					Counter's Initials:				
\$40 T-shirt	\$80 Ice cream	\$125 Punch Pass	\$200 Ivy's Books	\$250 Movie Pass					

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Outdoor Classroom & Ecological Learning Lab Update

The previous three Walk-A-Thons at ÉMJS have been used to raise money towards an Outdoor Classroom and Ecological Learning Lab, with the objective to create a space for our children to connect with nature, and to learn, explore, and play outside. We appreciate the support of the many parents, students, extended families, and neighbours who have made these events an unequivocal success! An outdoor classroom would not be possible without the support of the entire school community, and the support for this project has been tremendous.

Over the last three years, countless volunteer hours from our dedicated PAC Executive and parents have been put towards consulting, planning, and navigating the regulations and bylaws we must abide by within the school district. We have learned that the timeline to design and build an outdoor classroom can be lengthy, but we are making progress! To date, the PAC has consulted with ÉMJS administration and staff, student parents, various community experts, and School District 61 (SD61) Facilities Department. In the meantime, the PAC has invested the money raised (~\$87,300.00 as of August 2024!) into short-term GICs to earn interest while we wait.

This 2024-25 school year, we have worked hard to finalize a vision for the outdoor classroom structure with the current ÉMJS Staff. ÉMJS administration are working with SD61 Facilities on a detailed plan, which includes a covered wooden structure with seating and storage. (Due to regulations, SD61 Facilities will create the final architectural plans, determine the cost, and ultimately build the structure). At this juncture, we are waiting for their approval to confirm the final cost and note if any changes will be necessary before we can proceed to the next stage.

The PAC has, and will continue to bring information to the school community in its monthly meetings, which all ÉMJS parents are encouraged to attend. These meetings are a great way to stay informed about volunteer opportunities, school finances, progression of PAC projects and fundraisers, and are the place to ensure your voice is heard. Meeting minutes are always available on the PAC website for those who cannot attend.

Our next meeting, the PAC's annual AGM, will take place on Tuesday, April 29th via zoom. Parents can access a link on the PAC's website to join (emjspac.ca/meetings), or through the What's Up email closer to the date.

Thank you for all your continued support and patience as we navigate this project together!

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Walk-A-Thon?

In short, a Walk-A-Thon (WAT) is a fundraising event. Over the next few weeks, students are asked to collect pledges and track them on their pledge sheets. On the day of the WAT, all students will walk laps around the field or the school (weather dependent) for 30 minutes.

When is the ÉMJS Walk-A-Thon?

The 4th Annual ÉMJS WAT will take place on **April 25, 2025**. Grades K-2 will walk for 30 min in the morning, Grades 3-5 will walk for 30 min in the afternoon.

Why is the PAC organizing a Walk-A-Thon?

Our previous Walk-A-Thons have focused on fundraising for the Outdoor Classroom & Ecological Learning Lab, a project initiated at the request of the ÉMJS teachers in 2021. The fundraising has been amazingly successful (thanks to you!) and the plans are proceeding with SD61 Facilities who will ultimately be responsible for building it. Please see the attached form for more information.

The 4th Annual WAT represents a change of pace. We are keeping our fundraising goal of \$15,000 (which you have obliterated for 3 years running!) but we are changing the fundraising objective; instead of focusing on one large project, we will be using the WAT as a general fundraiser to pay for specific wishes and needs identified by the ÉMJS staff as well as numerous on-going PAC-funded projects and programs. This change recognizes that the WAT is a fun and extremely effective fundraising event, and we hope that by focusing on smaller goals, students and families can see an immediate and tangible impact from the funds raised through the WAT. Keep your eyes open for exciting updates on what this year's WAT could pay for! We hope that students can share this information with potential supporters when collecting pledges.

Do students collect pledges based on laps?

NO. Students do not collect pledges on a "per lap" basis but rather collect a lump sum. The day of the WAT is for students to have fun and celebrate their fundraising efforts.

Who should my child(ren) ask for pledges?

Family near or far, friends, neighbours, coaches, teammates... offer mailbox pick-up or drop-off or ask for an e-transfer.

When should my child(ren) return the pledge forms?

Students can start collecting pledges as soon as they get the pledge sheet. Students should return pledge sheets to their teachers during the week of the WAT (April 21-25).

How should we submit all the pledge money collected by my child(ren)?

- In order to reduce confusion, misplaced cash, and save our volunteers time we would like to encourage families to submit their total pledge amount online at EMJS.hotlunches.net or, if you would like a receipt for tax purposes, sd61.schoolcashionline.com. WAT volunteers MUCH prefer donations via EMJS.hotlunches.net as the site allows us to track funds more easily than donations through the School Cash Online. Please submit pledges during the week of **April 21-25**.
- If submitting via our PAC’s hotlunches website, please select **2025 WALK-A-THON Pledges** in the order box and follow the instructions from there.
- If submitting via the SD61 School Cash Online website, navigate to the donations page, please select **Margaret Jenkins Elementary-PAC** as the Fund Destination and **be sure to include in the message box “Walk-A-Thon”**.
- If your child is bringing in cash, please do so in **a clearly labeled envelope**, stating your child’s NAME, DIVISION, TEACHER’S NAME and AMOUNT. Thank you for your support!

Are there prizes?

Oh, yes, there are prizes! See this year’s list below.

Amount of Pledges	Prize
\$40	Walk-A-Thon T-Shirt
\$80	2 gift cards for a kid’s scoop at 49 Below Ice Cream (+ prizes above)
\$125	Oak Bay Recreational Centre 5 punch pass (+ prizes above)
\$200	\$15 Gift Card to Ivy’s Books (+ prizes above)
\$250	2 kids movie passes + popcorn & drinks (+ prizes above)

Are there any other prizes?

We are so glad you asked, YES, there are more prizes. The primary and intermediate classes with the highest total money raised will each get a PIZZA PARTY.

But are there more prizes?

You bet there is! Every pledge sheet returned, *regardless* of the amount of money pledged (even \$0!), is entered into a raffle for a \$200 Gift Certificate to Oak Bay Bikes. No pledges collected? Just return your pledge sheet with your name on it by April 25 to be entered.

When will the prizes be delivered?

Incentive prizes will be tallied after the WAT and should be delivered within four weeks of Walk-A-Thon Day. We will communicate should there be an unexpected delay.

This sounds so fun, how can I help?

Great question, thanks for asking! We will send out requests for help closer to the date or if you are really eager you can email us at exec@emjspac.ca. We will need help on the day-of the event and in the following weeks!

I have more questions, who do I ask?

Please direct any questions to exec@emjspac.ca, we would love to hear from you.