

## What is WAT?

### History

The first Los Alamitos Walk-a-thon (WAT) was held on October 21st, 1989 following the earthquake. WAT was the brainchild of Faith Borges and Doreene Chang (kindergarten parents at the time) who reached out to parents, teachers and community members to raise money for a Risograph machine, computers and playground equipment. The first WAT raised approximately \$11,000. Today, WAT has many of its original rules and events, but has evolved to include a silent auction and raises in excess of \$80,000.

### When and Where?

WAT is held on the school premises and is virtually an all day event. WAT has generally been held on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October depending upon weather and other calendar events. This year, WAT will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Walking begins at 9:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. During the day, there is music, a silent auction, BBQ, fun food booths and other surprises.

### How can I help?

There are many ways to help ensure the success of WAT:

1. Prior to WAT
  - a. Help decorate the Cafeteria
  - b. Assist with Pre-registration
  - c. Assist your child(ren) in obtaining pledges
  - d. Ensure waiver is sent in
  - e. Donate basket items for silent auction
  - f. Solicit donations from community partners/businesses
2. The Day of WAT
  - a. Volunteer to work a 2-hour shift (or several!)
  - b. Help with set-up and clean up
  - c. Bid on items at the silent auction
  - d. Walk with your child(ren)
3. After WAT
  - a. Help your child(ren) collect their pledges
  - b. Give your child(ren) foot rubs and lots of praise

(over)

## What are the Funds Used For?

WAT is the PRIMARY annual fundraiser that PTA sponsors for Los Alamitos Elementary and the proceeds are used to fund the following:

Accelerated Reader Program & Reading Incentives  
After School Programs  
Art Vistas Program  
Assemblies  
Birthday Recognition for all Students  
Books for the Media Center  
Classroom Supplies for Teachers  
Cross-Age Tutors  
Field Trips  
GATE program  
Music Program (partial support augmenting Scrip funding)  
Newsletters (Cottonwood Tales)  
Reading Lab  
Red Ribbon Week (Speakers & prizes)  
Reflections PTA Art Program  
Robotics  
School Directory  
Science Labs  
Site Improvements  
Special On-Site Programs  
    Gold Rush Days (4<sup>th</sup> graders)  
    Colonial Days (5<sup>th</sup> graders)  
Sports Equipment  
Student Council  
Technology (website, cameras, hardware & software)

