

FAQs regarding the WHE Annual Pledge Drive

Q. “Hey, why do I have to donate money to support a public school?”

A. Great question with several answers. First, you DO NOT have to donate money to this Annual Campaign – WE ARE CONDUCTING A GUILT-FREE CAMPAIGN ! WHE is, in fact, a public school with a great principal and excellent teachers and our doors will stay open even if no one contributes to this Annual Campaign. HOWEVER, it is clear that the families at this school have an extremely high standard for what constitutes an excellent school. And, unfortunately, LAUSD does not pay for the things that help us meet that standard – like teaching assistants, enrichment programs, and enhanced technology. Therefore, we raise over \$500,000 per year to help us provide the additional resources that will help prepare our children for the world in which they will live.

Q. I have been hearing about how great WHE is since we first had kids – I look around and I see an awesome school with tons of resources for our kids, highly motivated parents and successful students - why are we STILL raising money? Haven't we “arrived?”

A. Yes, our kids go to an awesome school and, as our recent state tests highlight, YES, our kids are doing very well academically. However, if your oldest kid hasn't year reached 4th grade then there is a very good chance that you don't know or remember what this school was like just before your child was born – It was a Title I school with very low attendance and very few resources. A group of local parents decided that there was no reason why their children shouldn't go to the local public school. These parent set out on a mission to “turn WHE around.” These pathfinders recruited families, raised money, raised expectations and laid the groundwork for the school our children attend today.

So, while we have made huge strides over the past 10 years, we have neither reached our goal nor are we in a position to stop raising money to keep all of these programs and positions funded. If you have enough money to start an endowment for our little school, please contact us at once. Short of that, we are in a position to have to raise money to continue to pay for the resources described above.

Q. Hey, I am not in a position to write a check for the suggested \$1,800. Sorry, I guess I can't participate, right?

A. WHAT? This is Hollywood and we all know how it is – you might be looking at Bentley Coupes one month and living on a friend's couch the next only to be moving into a McMansion the next– haha. FOWHE is a nonprofit organization and we value every single dollar that comes through those doors. If you notice the tree outside of the kinder yard, every single “ball” with a family name on it is exactly the same size – that is not accidental. When we say that getting 100% participation is as important as reaching our \$325,000 goal, we mean it! So, even if you have \$10/

month to give, that is perfect and we will value that gift the same way we would if it was \$10,000/month – it is all about the commitment. And, only the treasurer has access to the details of your pledge so your pledge is your business.

Q. Speaking of that tree outside of the kinder yard, isn't posting names of donors on that tree or in the wizard wire "shaming" parents who haven't given?

A. Again, this is supposed to be a "guilt-free" campaign so "shaming" families is absolutely the last thing in the world we are trying to do! Rather, we are trying to thank and recognize the families who have given. And, hopefully, these wizard wires and the tree serve as a reminder to families who intend to give but keep forgetting.

Q. Hey, my kid is in 4th or 5th grade, we have put in our "time," and we have donated a ton of money and time over the past few years – why should I continue to give?

A. It is hard for me to imagine being close to the end of this marathon but I have a sense for how this must feel and I can see how you might shift your lens towards what is next – MIDDLE SCHOOL. However, I will say this, it is important that you leave this school in good shape and hopefully continue to support WHE long after you are gone. We all want people to nod a "knowing nod" when they hear our children went to WHE because it has a long-standing reputation for excellence. We want our children's chests to swell with pride when they talk about WHE.

Q. What happens if we don't reach our fundraising goals?

A. I am not one for "doomsday" fundraising but, honestly, your donations pay for, among other things – Music, technology, tech support, physical education, writing coach, reading workshop, teacher aids, assemblies, field trips/workshops, art enrichments. Again, if we don't reach our goals, WHE's doors will stay open but we could not pay for all of the things we currently provide for our children – it is simple math, really.

HOWEVER, we are going to reach our goal so let's get ready to celebrate!