

Solomon Principal Newsletter

April 22, 2024

Dear Solomon Family--

Kudos to all of our cast and crew for their Thursday and Friday performances in *Disney's Descendants* musical. Friday night we had a full venue in their final performance, and I can't believe that we are nine years into this program. I am so proud of the students! I am also extremely grateful for the leadership of Kristen and Emily in making these performances happen--the months of planning and practice to make these two days happen is immense, and they are such valued members of our community!

This week we have a great opportunity for students and parents to participate in a fun event where math learning is at the core. Our Parent Advisory Council is sponsoring its first Family Math Night at Solomon on Wednesday, April 24, from 5-7pm. After a brief presentation, there will be plenty of opportunities to engage in hands-on math games, culminating in a pizza dinner and take-home activities for our attendees. Our 7th graders will demonstrate their leadership by guiding our younger students and their parents through the activities. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about how you can support your child with math learning. This is not a drop-off event; parents or guardians must attend. We are also having a [Math Spirit Week](#) to go along with the event.

Please read in our PTO section below for Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon updates, including last week's raffle winner and this week's raffle prize!

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- In this week's pictures in Snap, we have our newly-elected Local School Council student representative, Gloria L., speaking with our kindergarteners, as well as screens from Friday evening's *Descendants* performance at Wright College.
- We are excited for our 5 week partnership with Idea Box, our visual arts partners, to start on Monday, April 22. For 3 days a week through the end of the partnership, visual arts instructors will work with all students at Solomon to create art that centers around and celebrates student identity.
- Staff Appreciation Week will be celebrated at Solomon during the week of May 6-10, 2024, and we can use your help! As part of our celebration, we will be stocking our lounge with a variety of items to promote wellness and show our gratitude to our staff. If you are interested in contributing to this initiative, please visit this [Amazon Wish List](#) and purchase some items that will go directly to staff. We've also had families provide lunch and other wonderful gestures; if you are interested in doing so, please reach out to Principal Gamble at crgamble@cps.edu to schedule. Thank you!
- Registration continues for the YMCA of Chicago's fee-based program at Solomon, lasting from June 10 to August 9 this summer. For more information about the YMCA

- programming at Solomon, please click [here](#).
- Additionally, we are offering a “Kick-off to Kindergarten” program for our incoming Kindergarten students, from June 24 to July 26. For more information about the program, please click [here](#). Advanced sign-up is required, and there is a minimum number of registrants that we will need to be able to administer the program, which will be taught by our Kindergarten teaching staff of Ms. McReynolds and Ms. Leiva.
 - Registration for our new full-day Pre-K program continues, with families submitting an application by April 30 receiving notification of placement on May 22. Enrollment begins once families receive their offers and complete the verification process. Learn more at chicagoearlylearning.org.

Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization

- Our Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a parent and staff leadership group that promotes community and supports Solomon in our strategic plan. Please click [here](#) to read more about their mission and vision, as well as the dates for many of this year’s PTO-led events.
- Thank you to everyone that went to Oberweis on Friday, April 19, for our restaurant giveback. You earned \$245 for the Solomon PTO, our best giveback of the year!
- Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon is 2 weeks away (May 3, 2024), and all proceeds will go towards supporting our visual arts programming with Idea Box for all students in grades Pre-K through 8. To learn how you can contribute, please click [here](#).
- Through Friday, we have raised \$7,200 towards our school-wide goal of \$25,000, so we are making great progress. \$25,000 provides approximately a semester’s worth of supplemental visual arts instruction for ALL students at Solomon!
- We have all sorts of great classroom incentives for reaching our fundraising goals—items from a kindness bag, classroom PJ and pizza parties, extra recess—and everyone’s contribution goes towards those classroom incentives that the whole class will be able to enjoy!
- Additionally, we have a weekly raffle prize for everyone who donates that week. This past week’s winner, Rodrigo M. in 5th grade, won a basketball autographed by Chicago Bulls star guard Coby White! This week’s incentive is a [Blackhawks swag pack](#).
- Congratulations to Bella P. in 5th grade for creating the winning design for our WJR t-shirt that ALL students and staff will wear on May 3.
- This is our ONE big fundraiser of the year, so let’s make it count!

Important Solomon Links

- To report a COVID-19 positive test, click [here](#).
- To find Solomon’s breakfast and lunch menus, click [here](#) (search for “Solomon”). To learn more about the district’s meals and nutrition program, click [here](#).
- To see our entry and exit procedures, please click [here](#).
- To find any Solomon staff member, their position, and their contact information, click [here](#) for our organizational chart.
- To register for before and/or after-school child care with the YMCA of Chicago, hosted in our lunchroom, please follow the directions in [this link](#).

- Please click [here](#) to read more about the differences between Level I and Level II volunteers and to complete the application process.
- To see our year-long community calendar, click [here](#).
- To see our year-long assessment calendar, click [here](#).
- Solomon spirit wear purchases can be made through our partner, Squadlocker. Check out unique Solomon gear [here](#).
- Student fees were approved by our Local School Council this past July. Please click [here](#) to see the student fee structure for this year and the methods of payment.
- Class supply lists are linked [here](#) and at our school website, solomon.cps.edu.

School Calendars

- **April 24:** Family Math Night at Solomon (5-7pm)
- **April 25:** Solomon School Tour (lobby, 9:30)
- **April 30:** Special LSC Meeting (CIWP and SY25 Budget Vote in Library, 4:30)
- **May 3:** Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon!
- **June 3:** 8th Grade Graduation (Solomon turf field, 10am)