

Dear Butler families,

Butler students and families have had a long tradition of helping those in need, whether in our school, our community, or throughout the world. As such, Butler Elementary is proud to announce that we will be doing another Walk-A-Thon this spring to raise money to help students in Africa attend a new school. There are 67.5 million children out of school around the world, 95% of whom live in developing countries. Over the past seven years, some of the Butler teachers have been able to travel to Ghana to help construct a new orphanage, a school, a well and a latrine for children living in the Volta Region. Butler students have raised money to help build a school in 2012, and last year we helped install solar power on two schools.

We are holding our Walk-A-Thon on **Friday, May 9th** (rain date: May 13th). Timed to roughly coincide with United Nations Day for Cultural Diversity, our campaign will help raise money and improve empathy and understanding among people from different cultures. The goal of the Walk is for each Butler student to walk two or three miles in support of their peers in Ghana, many of whom walk many miles to attend school and acquire clean drinking water. Often, children spend so much time getting water they cannot attend school. Through interactive lessons and related books (developed and purchased with support we obtained from a grant from CB Cares), Butler students will learn about children in Ghana to understand the hardships faced by children in developing countries. All proceeds raised during the Walk, and related activities, will go toward the construction of a new school building for elementary students in Ghana. Children often raise money for different causes, but don't always see or understand the impact of their efforts. Through our on-going relationship with Ghanaian schools, Butler students have been able to witness and understand the impact of their kindness, compassion, and support.

We suggest students raise money by building awareness for this cause by sharing information about the Walk with their family and friends and by helping family members with chores. Pictures, videos and information about the Ghana Walk-A-Thon can be obtained from Butler's web site in the [Ghana Walk](#) section under Our School. **No student is permitted to go door-to-door for sponsorship.**

We are very excited about making a difference in the lives of students like us. There are several ways to get involved:

- All Butler students will participate in the Walk-A-Thon on May 9th.
- Third, fourth and fifth graders are also invited to participate in a grade level coin challenge between May 5^h and May 14th.
- The sixth graders will hold their donations until their Ghana Dance on Friday, May 16th.



Every student will have a donation sheet (see other side) to help keep track of his/her sponsorship for the Walk-A-Thon. All donations are tax deductible. We ask that you please assist your son/daughter with organizing donations so that they do not get lost. All checks should be made payable to *Butler School Store*.

The generosity of our students and families is astounding, and we are very thankful for your on-going support.

The Butler Elementary Faculty and Staff