

National School Walkouts

In response to the Parkland, FL school shooting, youth activists are planning a series of demonstrations nationwide. The issue of gun control impacts our children and educators in devastating ways, even here at Puesta del Sol. Lockdown drills have become a part of our routine at schools, as though school shootings were an unfortunate eventuality that we only need to prepare for, like earthquakes or fires. Our nation's children have begun to realize that it doesn't have to be this way, and that they have the right to demand legislators enact effective gun control laws to keep them safe at school. Read the Bellevue School Board's resolution to support sensible gun control [here](#).

The first day of action is this coming Wednesday, March 14. We have been asked by our nation's youth leaders to have a 17-minute walkout of our schools from 10:00 am to 10:17 am. Our plan is to walk from Puesta del Sol to Newport Way and back, wearing orange and chanting and holding signs. If you want to participate in the walkout with your children, please pick them up at the front office at 9:50 and meet other families in the covered area. If you are unable to attend the walkout but still want your child to participate, please arrange for another parent to chaperone your child during the walkout and send your child to school with a note for the teacher informing him/her of your intentions to let your child walk out. Parents and family members may also opt to leave their children in class and attend the walkout without them. Do what feels best and right for you and your family!

In case you or your children do not walk out on March 14, but you still want to support the movement for sensible gun laws in some way, here are some other ideas of ways you can participate:

- Wear ORANGE on this day. It's both the Bullying Prevention color, and the color chosen by the youth movement for gun control.
- Print and display a poster supporting gun control in our schools. This one was made available for free by children's book author and illustrator Victoria Jamieson (Rollergirl) and is appropriate for the elementary school setting. <http://victoriajamieson.squarespace.com/march-for-our-lives-poster-do/>
- Be an adult ally for youth organizers!
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a8f5e7ae17ba3bbe7d5638a/t/5a8fb06153450afb29a020a2/1519366242547/School+Walkout+-+An+Adult+Ally+Guide.pdf>
- Attend [the March for Our Lives](#) on Saturday, March 24 at 10 am at Cal Anderson Park. Keep the pressure on legislators to enact effective gun control!
- [A third day of action](#), geared more towards high school students, is being planned for April 20th. A number of events are already planned at [local high schools](#). Contact local high school organizers and see how you can help support our youth leaders!