Dear Beverly Cleary Parents and Families:

In 2018 alone, 18 school shootings have taken place in our country. Approximately every 60 hours a shooting occurs in an American school. Yours might be next.

We, as students at Beverly Cleary School, believe that we should not fear for our lives when we are at a supposed safe place such as school. Students across the country and at our own school are starting to notice this, and are taking the actions that adults have failed to take themselves. Schools in every time zone are planning a nationwide walkout to get elected officials to notice and to demand that they take measures to ensure we have safe schools. The Student Equity Team feels that participating in this walkout is more important now than ever, considering the situation our nation is in. Many students are eager to participate in this event because we want change and we want it before one more child dies an unnecessary death.

We would love for you all to come and support us. Stand with your child to honor those 17 teachers and students whose lives were unnecessarily taken. Stand with your child to demand that policymakers take action to ensure we have safe schools.

On March 14th, at around 9:50 AM, students and teachers will walk out of their classrooms and line up along NE 33rd Avenue and NE Broadway. Students may choose to make a sign to hold. The walkout will officially start at 10:00 AM and last 17 minutes, one minute to honor each of the victims of the Florida shooting. This walkout is not about any one solution to the problem, but it is about demanding that lawmakers start coming up with solutions at all, so we don’t have to wonder if we are next.

On the day of the walkout, the younger grades including 2nd, 4th, & 5th will be standing on 33rd Avenue outside of the school. The older grades including 6th-8th will walk down to Broadway because it is a busier street.

If you do not want your child participating in this nationwide walkout it is requested that you email your child’s teacher (2nd period if in Middle School) and tell them so. There will be staff members that stay behind in the school for students not participating. If you would like to be a parent volunteer, please contact us, we would be happy to have your help.

In Unity,

The Student Equity Team