



Sound Steps

Education Engineering Enforcement for Montgomery County Communities

Montgomery County Department of Transportation
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/walk

Safe Routes to School News

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A Very Successful Walk to School Day

Over forty-five Montgomery County schools participated in the 2013 International Walk to School Day!

That's an estimated 18,000 students, parents and school staff in Montgomery County walking and biking to school on October 9th. At Kensington Parkwood (KP) Elementary, elected officials joined students and parents walking to school.

Dignitaries spoke about the importance of physical activity and being safe when walking and biking to/from school. Principal Liess also talked about the day being the kick-off to KP's **SchoolPool**, an effort to reduce traffic congestion around schools. Students also participated in an assembly sponsored by AAA Mid-Atlantic featuring Otto the Auto. He proved to be a big hit as he taught students about the importance of practicing safe pedestrian and bicycle behaviors! Many schools had impressive turn-outs and creative celebrations. Congratulations to all those who participated!



Walk to School Day 2013 at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School



Students and Parents Sign a Safety Pledge as part of Wyngate Elementary Schools Walk to School Day

More inside!

Reminders

As students are now back in school, it is particularly important to remember and obey traffic laws and drive safely in school zones. If you drive to school, follow these safety tips to keep all students safe this school year!

- Be patient during drop-off and pick-up, the roadways surrounding schools are congested during these times. All drivers do have the same goal – to safely transport their students.
- Obey the speed limit in all school zones.
- Obey parking signs; they are purposefully placed and provide visibility for students to cross streets safely.
- Yield to pedestrians at all intersections, whether marked with a crosswalk or not, it's the law!
- Look both ways for pedestrians and bicyclists when turning right on a red light.
- Be aware of students where there are no sidewalks along the road and when backing out of driveways.
- Watch for younger and less predictable children darting into the road.
- Stop and wait for school buses when red lights are flashing.

Thanks for doing your part to provide safe student travel near your school!



Police Enforcement Details Around Schools

Conducted by Montgomery County Traffic Division officers and District motorcycle officers. Enforcement details are conducted during arrival and dismissal times.

- 839 citations were given in the 2012-2013 school year
- Types of violations:
 - Speeding in school zones (#1 priority)
 - Reckless driving
 - Seatbelt compliance
 - Obeying posted school and parking signs
 - Crosswalk violations (by motorists)

Montgomery County Police are working closely with schools to address specific concerns. For more information regarding police enforcement contact Nadji Kirby, SRTS Coordinator at 240-777-7169 or at nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Welcome!

This newsletter will contain information regarding the Safe Routes to School program, pedestrian and bicycle safety topics, engineering highlights, enforcement, etc. This newsletter will be sent to school administrators, teachers, parents, volunteers, and other interested parties. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested or email me their address and I can add them to the list, nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Nadji Kirby, Editor
MCDOT Director's Office

Engineering at Galway!

At Galway Elementary School, the crossing guard was posted at a four-way stop controlled intersection south of the school. However, a significant number of parents were parking in a lot across from the school and on the street and walking their children at mid-block locations across Galway Drive (without benefit of a crossing guard or stop controls). Additionally, parents were stopping their vehicles in "No Stopping Any Time" zones on both sides of the street which negatively impacted both vehicular and pedestrian traffic safety.

To improve pedestrian safety, MCDOT installed a marked school crosswalk on Galway Drive at the bus loop entrance driveway and the crossing guard is now posted at that location. Curb extensions were constructed on both sides of Galway Drive, at the new crosswalk location, to improve pedestrian safety as well as to maintain safe traffic operations through the school zone.



Volunteer with Safe Routes to School!

Get involved with Safe Routes to School. Volunteers lead campaigns, organize bike and walk events, and assist with activities. Whether you want to volunteer in a classroom setting or lead a fun ride or walk, there are many ways to get involved! This is a great way for parents to get involved in a hands-on way that kids see. It can make a meaningful difference in teaching and learning. great way for parents to get involved in a hands-on way that kids see. It can make a meaningful difference in teaching and learning.

Check out these great volunteer opportunities:

- Organize a bike fair
- Organize a Stop + Walk campaign
- Make your school an idle free zone
- Assist with our bicycle and pedestrian safety education programs and trainings
- Lead a Walking School Bus or Bike Train at your school (**SchoolPool can help**)
- Lead International Walk or Bike to School Day at your school
- Write an article in the school newsletter on the benefits of walking and biking
- Guide families on a community walk. Talk with your school administrators to create a weekly or monthly walk to school day

To volunteer for Safe Routes to School, contact Nadji Kirby, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, MCDOT, at nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov or by phone at 240-777-7169.



Safe Routes to School in Montgomery County Targeted Education and Outreach Programs

Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School program provides safe and active walking and bicycling to and from school. It provides an opportunity to make walking and bicycling safer and more accessible for children, including those with disabilities, as well as to increase the number of children who chose to walk and bike. On a broader level Safe Routes to School can enhance children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near schools, improve air quality, and improve community member's overall quality of life.



Montgomery County's Safe Routes to School program is led by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and is supported by the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and other County and State agencies working to improve student safety. We work collaboratively with schools to develop creative solutions for school related traffic problems.

Montgomery County Department of Transportation – Safe Routes to School

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