



Sound Steps

Education Engineering Enforcement for Montgomery County Communities

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

Safe Routes to School News

April 2015

YOLO Walk Safe

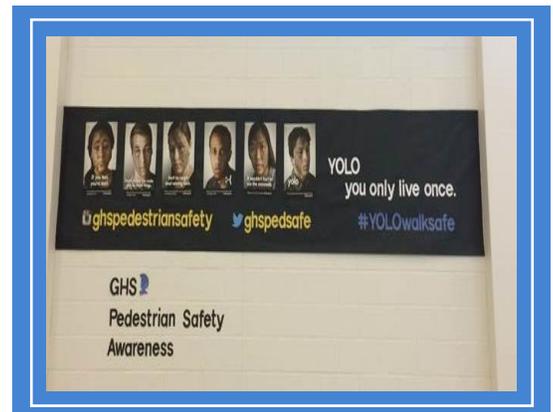
High School Pedestrian Safety Campaign

Montgomery County's Department of Transportation (MCDOT) launched the YOLO High School Pedestrian Safety Program in the fall of 2014. This initiative expanded upon a program started last year which encouraged students to create, design and implement their own pedestrian safety campaign at their school. The YOLO campaign goes one step further by suggesting specific ways to spread pedestrian safety awareness. To date, student groups have done activities including assemblies, pledge banner signings, pedestrian safety rallies, created skits/performances, had tables with glow sticks and information at sporting and community events, scheduled pedestrian safety awareness weeks at their schools, etc. All of these events combined so far have reached over 16,000 students and adults. MCDOT will continue to work with schools to organize and implement projects.

For more information about the YOLO Campaign visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/safety.

More inside!



At Gaithersburg High school, students displayed YOLO posters in their heavily trafficked "pit" area.



Students at Bethesda Chevy Chase High School held a Pedestrian Safety Awareness "Lunch Fest." They had games, prizes, and students signed the YOLO Pledge Banner.

Annual Takoma Park SRTS 5k Challenge! Sunday, May 3!



The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5k Challenge promises to be bigger and better than ever for first time 5k runners and 5 year veterans. The TKPK5K race committee is committed to the highest standards for safety and fun. The race is being held to promote Safe Routes to School, to spend a great day with the community enjoying a family friendly, healthy activity and to raise funds for the Parent Teacher Associations at four area elementary schools: Takoma Park ES, Piney Branch ES, Rolling Terrace ES, East Silver Spring ES and Takoma Park Middle School. The funds are used for programs that focus on walking for health and bike/pedestrian safety. For more information and to register for the race go to <http://www.tkpk5k.com/>.

This year's race will also kick-off Global Road Safety Week. Global Road Safety Week seeks to highlight the issue of road safety for children and generate action to better ensure their safety. Stay tuned for more information on this!



Mark your calendars and strap on your helmet! Bike to School Day is Wednesday, May 6!

Schools around the county are encouraged to join schools across the country to celebrate National Bike to School Day 2015. Bike to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for bicycling and walking and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, reducing traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The events build connections between families, schools and the broader community. Your school community can do a ride, hold an assembly about bike safety, show videos on your morning announcements, etc. You can do what works best for your school! For planning ideas and to register your school to participate please visit www.walkbiketoschool.org.



Welcome!

This newsletter contains information regarding the Safe Routes to School program, pedestrian and bicycle safety topics, engineering highlights, enforcement, etc. It is 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 Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations

Fire Up Your Feet!

Fire Up Your Feet is a core program of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and is available to any elementary and middle school. Fire Up Your Feet is about getting your school community active by walking, biking, dancing, or jumping! The program offers free resources, an online activity tracker, a school fundraising organizer and more, all aimed at increasing physical activity before, during and after school for students, parents, school staff and teachers.

The Fire Up Your Feet Activity Challenge has awarded more than \$100,000 to K-8 schools that are the most active! It is all about the most participation in your school – so grab your parents, students, teachers, administrators and school staff – that's right, everybody can move and help you earn cash awards to help improve your school! Get started by registering [here](#).

If you have any questions, contact Nadji Kirby, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, for more information at nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov or by phone at 240-777-7169.



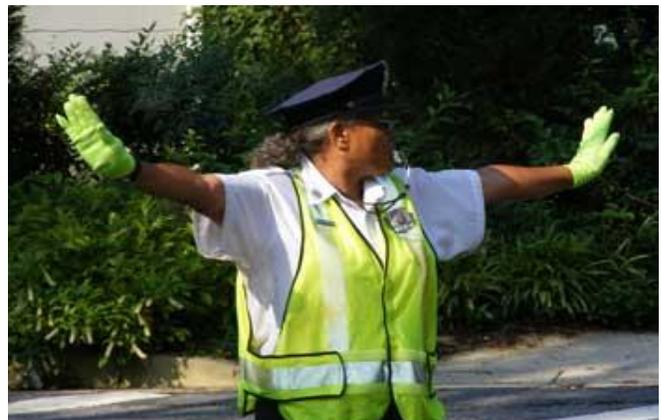
Crossing Guard Appreciation Day! June 2, 2015

Montgomery County Crossing Guards are out there to shepherd us safely across the street. They keep children safe from traffic throughout the year—no matter the conditions: wind, rain, snow or sweltering heat.

Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians all owe a bit of thanks to our unsung heroes. Here are a few ways you can show your crossing guard appreciation on Tuesday, June 2, 2015:

- Present them with a certificate (just print the [PDF](#) or [Word doc](#), and fill in your crossing guard's name on the certificate).
- Write a thank you note
- Have your students draw a picture of your crossing guard in action
- Bring him or her flowers
- Give your Crossing Guard a gift card from a local business
- Spread the word about your exemplary crossing guard on social media and encourage others to do the same.
- Write an article in your school newsletter about your Crossing Guard
- Guide families on a community walk. Talk with your school administrators to create a weekly or monthly walk to school day

If you have any questions, 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, Maryland State Highway Administration, 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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