



MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
MARYLAND

# Sound Steps

Education Engineering Enforcement for Montgomery County Communities

Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts)

## Safe Routes to School News

April 2017



A Safe Kids study showed that 1 in 4 high school students and 1 in 6 middle school students walk distracted. These distractions were most often texting or wearing headphones. For this reason, MCDOT held their Don't Be Distracted Creative Contest once again this year. Students from all grade levels were asked to create a 30-60 second public service announcement (PSA) video or artwork about the dangers of walking or driving distracted.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2017 winners:

### First Place Winners:

Elementary/Middle – Tyler Nordlinger, Grade 4, Chevy Chase ES  
Elementary/Middle – Corina Servis, Grade 5, Rock Creek Valley ES  
High School - Sebastian Kraft, Grade 11, Montgomery Blair HS

### Grand Prize:

Kristen Savary, Grade 12, James Hubert Blake HS

Twenty students also received free movie tickets for getting their entries in first!

To see the winning entries from this year and last year please visit the SRTS webpage,

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts).



More inside!

# Bike to School Day – May 10, 2017

Mark your calendars and strap on your helmet! Bike to School Day is Wednesday, May 10!

Schools around the county are encouraged to join schools across the country to celebrate National Bike to School Day 2017. 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.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts) and click on the Bike to School Day box.



**\*NEW\***

## Cross Safe, Cross Smart Video

In partnership with the City of Takoma Park Safe Routes to School program, MCDOT SRTS developed a Cross Safe, Cross Smart Crosswalk Simulation Activity Training Video. The Crosswalk Simulation Activity is an educational tool primarily used in grades K-2 to teach students the best practices for crossing the street. Each year students at Montgomery County schools benefit from the 30 minute workshop. Now community members can learn how to conduct the workshop and borrow a kit to present the workshop themselves. Scout leaders, teachers, and parents can take the training and request the kit. View the video [here](#): Cross Safe, Cross Smart.

For any questions please contact Nadji Kirby, SRTS Coordinator, at [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov) or by phone at 240-777-7169.



## Thank you for reading! Now Pass it on!



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. They can also sign up to receive the newsletter by going to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/srts). If there are any questions about the newsletter, please contact me, [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Nadji Kirby, Editor  
MCDOT Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations

## Safe Kids Day!

Around the world, a million children die each year from preventable injuries. Millions more are injured in ways that can affect them for a lifetime. In fact, preventable injuries are the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Safe Kids Day is an opportunity to raise awareness and resources to celebrate kids, prevent injuries and save lives!

The Montgomery County Safe Kids Coalition will host their annual Safe Kids Day event on **Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-5:00pm at New Hampshire Estates ES** so mark your calendars! This event will be held in partnership with the YMCA Youth and Family Services Healthy Kids Day.

This fun family event will celebrate kids and help families learn simple things they can do to keep kids safe. The event is supported by Nationwide®, Johnson & Johnson, FedEx, Chevrolet, Kidde and Tide. At the event there will be activities focused on nutrition and health, bike safety, pedestrian safety, home safety, fire safety, water safety, and child passenger safety.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer that day, contact Nadji Kirby, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, for more information at [nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov) or by phone at 240-777-7169. You can also visit the Montgomery County Safe Kids website at [www.safekidsmoco.org](http://www.safekidsmoco.org).

**SAFE  
K:DS**  
MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY



**SafeRoutes**



## Annual Takoma Park SRTS 5k Challenge – May 7, 2017

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 (May 8 – May14). 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!

If you have any questions, contact Lucy Neher, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, City of Takoma Park, at [lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov) or by phone at 301-891-7235.



# 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

100 Edison Park Drive, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
240-777-7169  
[nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov)